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Literature and Miscellaneous.

A SCENE ON THE RIVER PLATE.

Affairs of a private nature rendered it necessary for me to communicate with my husband, and as letters were, in all respects unsafe, I thought it better to go myself, (I was at Monte Video, and he was in command of the Brazilian blockading squadron, up the river Plate, before Buenos Ayres.) An excellent opportunity presented itself in a Brazilian corvette, commanded by an elderly, civil, and good natured Frenchman.

All being arranged, I took leave of my children, recommending them to the kind offices of my friends and neighbors, and embarked on the 25th of July.

It was very cold weather, and the air of the Plate is peculiarly piercing; we tried to heat a stove, which the captain had kindly procured for me, but it choked us with smoke and we were obliged to relinquish the attempt, which, perhaps, was not to be regretted; very warm clothing and as much exercise as possible on deck, being far better methods for alleviating this sort of discomfort. The French generally, in their private arrangements, are more economical than we are; the captain had little closets fitted up in his own cabin, where he carefully kept locked up his china and glass, and all such stores of provisions as he could conveniently keep in them; what was wanted he regularly gave out himself every morning, and he kept the keys in his pocket: notwithstanding all this, we had a most liberal and excellent table, and the finest coffee I have tasted on board ship. Our mess was composed of the captain, the pilot, and myself; the pilot was, I believe, the only Englishman, on board, all the rest were French, Brazilians, and negroes. I had brought with me some needle work, books, and writing materials, which, with the grand occupation of keeping myself warm, quite filled up my time for the three days of my voyage.

Early on the morning of the 28th, I suspected by a certain movement and hubbub on board, that we were approaching our destination: I rose, and began to make my toilet as quickly as possible. The captain presently knocked at my door and informed me that we had reached the squadron, and should presently speak; he therefore, begged to know what he should say about me—for the good man seemed shrewdly to suspect that I had taken upon myself to go nobody knew why, where every body thought I had no business to be. I replied, "merely say that I am on board, if you please, Sir." Accordingly, in a few minutes after the commodore had hailed him, I heard the intelligence bawled out through his speaking trumpet, in good Portuguese. My husband's boat was alongside in a second, soon followed by those of several of the other commanders, and we sat down to such a breakfast as they had not enjoyed for many days; after which we took leave of our kind host inviting him to dine with us the following day.

The weather was beautiful, and we passed a very pleasant day in visiting several of the principal vessels.

On the following morning the squadron got under weigh, and anchored as near to Buenos Ayres as possible. The Brazilian vessels were much to heavy for service on the river Plate, and drew too much water; an incalculable disadvantage to them during war. However, we were able to get near enough to have a very interesting view of the city and harbor; and having retired from the dinner-table, where most of the commanders were our guests, I sat on the poop surveying with peculiar, and somewhat painful interest, the novel scene before me. The vessels of our gallant enemy seemed to me alarmingly close; and as to Buenos Ayres, although it looked so pretty, quiet, and inviting, I could not help secretly wishing it much further off.

The gentlemen soon joined me, took their coffee, and were each on board their own ships before dark. I felt rather fatigued, and was in bed by nine.

The scene still haunted me, and I could not help saying to my husband, with a voice betraying a little apprehension, "suppose our Buenos Ayrean friend were to take it into his head to pay us a visit to night?" "Let him come," was the reply, and then,—"Non-sense, my dear, go to sleep." Which order I obeyed with dutiful promptitude.

I recollect awaking very shortly afterwards with a start of terror; strange and confused noises were around me: "the enemy is among us!" rung in my ears; my husband, already up, cried out, "very well;" and then saying to me, "I will be back in a minute" he left me.

I crept out of my bed, huddled on some clothes and poked my feet into my husband's large slippers, because they lay closest to the bed. The shots whizzed fearfully above my head, and well I knew that it was a mere chance whether or not they entered the cabin windows. My husband soon returned with the steward; the former taking me by the arm, drew me as quickly as possible on deck, and then down the companion ladder; the steward collected all my traps and followed us. We went into the gunroom which lay quite aft beneath the poop cabins; it was lined on each side with small sleeping cabins; in one of these (a spare one which had not been occupied) he placed me, recommending me to lie down underneath the bed place, and having thus disposed of me, returned to his duty. The firing at this time was tolerably warm; the little cabin, from the circumstances of its being a spare one, was filled with all sorts of rubbish, and on looking underneath the berth I found that it was also occupied in the same way; and the whole was so small, close and sickening, that I began to think I might as well be shot as smothered; I looked into the gunroom, where a marine officer was seated composedly by the powder magazine, which lay open before him; I decided to take my station here on the floor, leaning against the side of the cabin I had just emerged from.

The fire began to slacken; sometimes it ceased altogether, and was renewed at intervals, which gradually became longer. I do not think my companion and I exchanged a single syllable: he was a little, quiet, elderly man, and as nothing from the magazine was yet wanted, on deck, he had as snug and idle time as myself; he nodded and napped until some sudden repetition of the firing roused him; then he crossed himself, sighed, and napped again.

About the middle of the night my husband came down and begged I would turn in to the little bed, and try to take some repose. The night had become so very dark, that it was probable the struggle would not be renewed until dawn, when the enemy would, he presumed, try to get back into their strong hold, which he should prevent, if possible: as yet he thought little damage had been done on either side.

I accordingly crept into the little bed, which the steward cleared and prepared; an unusual stillness pervaded the whole vessel, and I soon sunk into a feverish and dreamy repose.

No dawn found its way into our abode; but I was conscious of a stir beginning thro' the ship. I looked into the gunroom; the dim lamp was still burning, and the little man still nodding; we were both, however, thoroughly shaken out of our drowsiness by a sudden and tremendous broadside, given by our vessel, which was succeeded by various demands for ammunition stores, so that the old gentleman began to be fully and actively employed, the fire on both sides being kept up with unremitting warmth. The steward, with professional coolness, apologized for the want of coffee, but brought a tray with wine, bread, cold fowl, and pie, which he secured with care.

From this time we were nearly six hours closely engaged; we were aground three several times; a species of danger which gave me much uneasiness. Now and then an officer, (they were chiefly Englishmen,) came down, and having popped his head, face, and hands into water, and taken a glass of wine from my tray, returned: from them I received the most encouraging reports, and their faces, though hot, black, and dirty, looked so merry and full of hope, that the very sight of them did me good. I learned that several men were wounded, but none as yet dead, at least that they knew of. They generally remarked that the enemy fired too high—(comfort for me.)

I had not seen my husband since midnight and I began anxiously to watch for his coming. I began to feel weary and dejected. I had lost all idea of time, and ventured to ask my friend, the marine, what o'clock he thought it was: he went to a cabin for his watch, and seemed as much surprised as I was, to find that it was between eleven and twelve.

I imagined that we must be coming to a conclusion; the firing was no longer so constant and steady; a long pause had now succeeded; but as to what had been done, what had been really effected, I knew no more than if I had remained at Monte Video. At length I heard my name called by my husband: I flew out of the gunroom, and reached the bottom of the companion ladder, when on looking up, the light struck me so suddenly and so dazzlingly, that I could scarcely tell whether the begrimed and blackened figure that stood at the top, was my husband or not, and even his voice was so changed and hoarse, that I hardly recognised it as he cried out:—

"Come up directly—I want you particularly to see with your own eyes the position of the vessels now, at the close of the action." "I shall be very glad to come up—but—are you sure the action is quite closed?"—"Yes—I don't much think we shall have another shot—I shall give no more—come, come!" and up I went. In ascending, my foot slipped twice, which I attributed to my own agitation; but it was no such thing, I had stepped in blood! It was down this ladder the wounded had been conveyed, and while pausing at the top to recover from the sickening sensation I experienced, the groans of a young wounded officer from a cabin below met my ear.

Alas! how little can those who only read of battles through the cold and technical medium of a general officer's bulletin, conceive of the reality! This first slippery step of mine into an actual field of slaughter, conveyed an impression which can never be erased.

Summoning all my presence of mind, I accompanied my husband to the side, and stepping upon the carriage of a gun, looked round. The first thing that fixed my eye was the ship of the Buenos Ayrean admiral, stranded, a complete and abandoned wreck—there she lay, covered with honorable wounds. The admiral's flag was on board one of the smaller vessels, and he was effecting his retreat in good order. I then looked up at our own ship—to the eye she seemed almost as complete a wreck as her antagonist: her sails were floating in ribbands, her masts and yards were full of shot without exception—every thing was crippled; she had besides numerous cannon shot imbedded in her hull, while others had passed right through the opposite side; the decks were smeared with dirt, and blood; the seamen, overcome with fatigue, were crawling about, or sinking with their heads on the carriage of the guns. I then looked at our other vessels, who were grouped at some distance behind; but I could not discover that either they, or the Buenos Ayreans, who were conveying away their gallant admiral, had suffered the slightest damage. I then discovered two of our vessels in the distance, one very far off indeed: that nearest to us we soon observed had

her foretop mast shot away, but for the flight of the other we could not then account; we afterwards ascertained that she left early in the action, because her captain had received a wound in the arm.

A few hours were devoted to the rest and refreshment of which the whole ship's company stood so much in need; but towards evening repairs and cleaning had begun; the other vessels were called to our assistance, especially the one I had arrived in, and in a day or two we were pretty well patched up.

On the 4th of August I took leave of my husband, and, accompanied by those who were the most severely wounded, went again on board the quiet Frenchman. We reached Monte Video on the 8th, after an absence of fourteen days.

From the North American Magazine.

MEMOIR OF THE HON. JNO. SERGEANT.

Preliminary to the subsequent unadorned but authentic memoir of an eminent jurist and true American, we should not deem it necessary to disclaim all political partialities, were we not, sometimes, required by indiscriminating injustice to abstain from all allusions to civil and ecclesiastical affairs. The politics, therefore, of Mr Sergeant, whether in faction's phrase, they are termed democratic or federal, it is not our business to investigate and adjudge. We sympathise not with any party, but admire and love our whole broad, bright, and beautiful FATHERLAND, its magnificent constitution and its glorious liberties. As the friend of his country and the advocate of its rights and honors; as the creator or coadjutor of great and noble enterprise; as the defender of innocence and the scourge of injustice; as a man of letters and an ornament to society, we respect and admire the profound and accomplished mind, the development and dominion of which it is our purpose to elucidate.

JOHN SERGEANT was born on the 5th of December, 1779, in the city of Philadelphia. His father, Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant, was a native of New Jersey, and represented that state in the revolutionary Congresses of 1776 and 1777. In 1778 he came to Philadelphia, and was immediately appointed Attorney General, which office he held for upwards of two years. Besides the professional eminence which he had attained, he was distinguished for his activity and zeal as a politician, and as one of the most prominent leaders of what was then called the constitutional party, and which was the basis of the present democracy of the state. It was the party which ranked among its members, then and afterwards, Franklin, Reed, McKean, Findley, Smilie, and many others of equal distinction. Mr Jonathan Sergeant died in October, 1793, of the yellow fever. He was one of the committee of citizens, who voluntarily gave their services to the community at that awful period, and, instead of flying before the desolating pestilence, remained to give comfort and assistance to the diseased and the dying. Mr Sergeant's particular duty was to take charge of the orphans deprived of their natural protectors, by the prevailing malady, who were provided for in a house designated for that purpose. He died in the performance of this noble duty, leaving ten children, of whom the subject of this notice was the second.

John Sergeant, having graduated at Princeton College, entered a countinghouse in the city of Philadelphia, with the intention of qualifying himself for the mercantile profession; but, soon dissatisfied with the pursuit, he was induced, fortunately for himself and for his country, to devote his talents to the bar. After completing the regular course of professional study, under the tuition of the late Jared Ingersoll, he was admitted to practice in the summer of 1799. From that time to the present, his career, as a professional and a public man, has been signally honorable to himself and beneficial to all whose interests, whether as clients or constituents,

have been committed to his care. The same unbending integrity and exalted intelligence distinguished his early years, that have characterized him in mature life, and have so much contributed to secure the proud distinction which he now enjoys. At the bar he almost immediately acquired great reputation, and the professional reader will recollect the flattering compliment which was paid from the bench of the Supreme Court to Mr Sergeant, within a very short time after his admission.

From his entrance into life, Mr Sergeant was identified with the democracy of his native state, and from the fixed principles of that party, as promulgated by its original advocates, in the course of a long public life he has never swerved. In 1800, not a year after he commenced the practice of the law he was appointed attorney general, by Governor McKean; and in 1802, a commissioner of bankruptcy, by Mr Jefferson. In 1805, he was elected to the legislature of the state from the city of Philadelphia; and after declining a reelection the following year, was again elected in 1807. During this session, the attention of the legislature was engrossed by many subjects of momentous interest, in the discussion of all of which Mr Sergeant though one of the youngest members in the house, bore an active and distinguished part; and was regarded by all parties, at a time too when political rancor was most active, as one of the most powerful and accomplished debaters.

His successful exertions in conjunction with the other leaders of the party, in averting the threatened impeachment of the then executive, gained him no little additional reputation. During the session of 1807-8, Mr Sergeant was chairman of the committee on roads and inland navigation, and it was during that session that the first act was passed giving the direct aid of the state to turnpike roads, and appropriating about two hundred thousand dollars for the improvement of the state. In the course of a long legislative life, Mr Sergeant has omitted no opportunity of promoting the cause of virtue and morality, and on two occasions has had it in his power by direct personal and official agency to sustain it. The bill introduced into the legislature of Pennsylvania, and passed into a law, effectually to prevent masquerades, one of the most dangerous modes of European luxury and licentiousness, was suggested and triumphantly advocated by Mr Sergeant in the session of 1807. When in the house of representatives of the union, twenty years afterwards, a petition was presented, desiring authority from congress to establish lotteries in the District of Columbia—Mr Sergeant rose, and in a brief but masterly speech, protested with so much power and eloquence against further legislative sanction of this baneful species of gambling, that not only was the suggestion promptly withdrawn, but a committee was instructed to prepare a bill forever abolishing the lottery system within the jurisdiction of the federal legislature. These are two incidents in Mr Sergeant's career, which, though overshadowed by the splendor of his other public services, deserve to be commemorated as illustrative of his unvarying interest in the cause of virtue, and that zeal to promote its objects which with him has never been known to deviate. It is in fact the moral purity of Mr Sergeant, his unsuspected honesty of motive and purpose, that has tended in no slight measure to advance him to his present personal and professional eminence. In all the bitterness of party strife, we never remember to have heard one word of disrespect or reproach uttered against the favorite son of Pennsylvania.

In 1815, Mr Sergeant was elected to congress, from the city and county of Philadelphia, in the place of Gen. Jonathan Williams, who had died after his election. He was elected to congress until 1822, when in pursuance of his own wishes, he retired into private life. Such was Mr Sergeant's popularity in his district, and so sensibly did his constituents appreciate the services which he had it in his power to render them, that in 1820 his name was placed on the tickets of both parties, and he was elected by more than twelve thousand votes.

Mr Sergeant's position in the house of representatives was always one of high distinction, and by his active participation in all the important discussions which occupied that body while he was a member, he acquired a great influence in its deliberations. At

the commencement of the session of 1815-16, he was placed on the judiciary committee, and, two years after, was appointed its chairman, in which capacity he continued until his resignation. During four years, he was on the committee of ways and means, at the head of which was the lamented Lowndes. On these two committees, Mr Sergeant rendered great and most effective service. The narrative of his legislative career is the history of unremitting exertion to sustain, not only the general interest of the nation, but the policy of his native state, and from the beginning to the end he continued the unwavering advocate of all those measures which Pennsylvania was especially interested in sustaining. The first speech made by Sergeant on the floor of the house of representatives was in support of the tariff principle, on the proposition to reduce at once the war duties, in which he sustained with much zeal and eloquence the interests of the manufacturers, and the protective policy. It was at this session that the tariff was first revised after the war, and its principle definitely recognized, and, however hostile a portion of the confederacy may be to the measures it involves, there can be no doubt of Mr Sergeant's sincerity and elevated patriotism. Unlike many others of the distinguished advocates of "protection," to whom experience has shown the sound doctrine of the great American system, Mr Sergeant has been from the first to last its resolute and consistent friend. The combination of his name with that of the great father of that system has always appeared to us most happy. Henry Clay and John Sergeant may be regarded as having been born the friends of internal improvement and domestic industry.

In the session of 1816, Mr Calhoun advocated the project of the bank of the United States, and reported a bill establishing such an institution, with a capital of thirty five millions, to be increased if necessary, to fifty one millions. To the bill, as reported, Mr Sergeant moved and supported an amendment, reducing the capital to twenty millions, which he believed to be fully adequate to the existing exigency. This amendment did not prevail. What its effects would have been can of course be a matter of conjecture only, but it has been believed that, had the capital been reduced in accordance with the suggestion of Mr Sergeant, the disastrous scene of speculation, which ensued, would not have occurred.

The favorite measure of Mr Sergeant's legislative life was the establishment of a uniform system of bankruptcy, by which the rights and interests of debtor and creditor should be alike protected, and the community relieved from the accumulated curses of local insolvent laws, in whose train fraud, injustice and rapacity walk hand in hand. The founders of the constitution had expressly given the power to congress, and in doing so had seemed to recommend its exercise, but, except for a short period, no such system had been in being since the formation of the government. The want of it had been most severely felt, especially in the northern and middle states, and bills had been reported to congress, with a view to supply the defect. All failed. In 1821, a bankrupt bill passed the senate, and at the next session was reported in the house of representatives by Mr Sergeant, as chairman of the judiciary committee. It was supported by a most brilliant speech. The bill, however, failed. To Mr Sergeant's great efforts on this occasion, one of his political opponents, (Mr Hayne) himself a high minded and magnanimous man, paid a distinguished but not unmerited tribute of respect subsequently when another bill of the same character was under discussion in the senate.

On the 9th of February, 1820, he made his great speech on the Missouri question in reply to Mr Clay, a speech which received panegyric from men of all parties at the time, and will always be considered one of the finest specimens of argumentative eloquence our country has produced. Long subsequently, when on a memorable occasion party feeling was violently excited against him, his conduct in the Missouri debate was made a theme of reproach in the senate of the United States. It needs no apology that it accorded with the views of his constituents. Believing slavery to be most pernicious in its influences and effects, Mr Sergeant was anxious only to prevent its further extension, but never uttered or en-

tertained a wish to aggravate its evils by inconsiderate legislation, or to affect injuriously rights which are recognized by the laws and the constitution.

At the following session on the resignation of Mr Clay, Mr Sergeant was supported by a large vote for the speaker's chair. In the year 1822, he declined a reelection to congress.

In the fall of 1826, Mr Sergeant was nominated for congress, but no election took place. The same winter, he went to Mexico as minister plenipotentiary to the congress of American nations, which was to assemble near that city. Owing, however, to the intestine difficulties which had then begun to agitate the Spanish American Republics, and which have not yet subsided, the congress never met, and Mr Sergeant returned to the United States in the summer of 1827, and was the same year elected by a large majority to congress from the city of Philadelphia.

The sessions of the twentieth congress were occupied exclusively by the tariff discussions, and by the constant explosions of the violent party feeling which then agitated the country. The tariff of 1828 was supported by Mr Sergeant, as were also the various bills for public improvement, and particularly the appropriations for the Cumberland road. Two bills of a local character were, during this congress, successfully advocated by Mr Sergeant; the bill making an appropriation for the breakwater, at the mouth of the Delaware, and the bill for the permanent establishment of the mint at Philadelphia. The credit of the latter belongs exclusively to Mr Sergeant. During the session of 1827, the celebrated retrenchment committee was organized, and Mr Sergeant, having taken an active part in the debate, was made a member of it. He and Mr Everett constituted the minority who prepared the protest defending the conduct and policy of the then administration, of which he was a zealous and consistent supporter.

On the incidents of Mr. Sergeant's professional life, it is not our intention to enlarge. Having always been ranked among the leaders at the Pennsylvania bar, his reputation for forensic eloquence and profound legal attainments, is not surpassed by that of any advocate in the union. On two occasions, both of great public interest, have his talents been signally developed. On one he was employed to defend the rights of his native state, and of her citizens, against an attempt in the form of a land speculation, to deprive them of their property, and on the other as the advocate of violated humanity, he lent his valuable aid to protect the remnant of the Indian race from the official persecution of which they were the objects. On both occasions he was successful. His argument in the case of the missionaries, imprisoned by the authorities in Georgia, was regarded as one of the most brilliant efforts of his genius.

Uniting, thus, the inflexible integrity of the patriot to the prophetic wisdom of the statesman, and the unsullied virtue of the man to the penetrating eloquence of the jurist, Mr Sergeant has passed in his noble career, unassailed even by the mercenary arts of faction and uncorrupted by the alluring seductions of power. He has resigned himself a vassal to the dominion of no party; he has never apostatized from the principles which his judgment and patriotism required him to adopt and proclaim. Every exalted and ennobling enterprise, that came within the sphere of his influence and action, he has never failed to advocate with the eloquence of truth. Amidst engrossing occupations, he has been and is a friend and ornament to the literature of his fatherland; and in every relation in life, a model of American patriotism and domestic virtue.

THE INFLUENCE OF

Mechanical Invention on the Improvement of Mankind.

BY G. C. VERPLANK.

Several years ago, in conversing with a very ingenious and well informed friend now deceased, I was much struck by a transient observation of his. 'In spite,' said he, 'of man's boasted intellect, he is as much indebted for his present state in civilized life to the hand as to the head. Suppose,' proceeded he, 'that the human arm had terminated in a hoof or a claw, instead of a hand what would have been the present state of society, and how far would mere intellect have carried us?'

I do not know whether this idea was original with my friend or not, although I have never since heard it or met with it in books; and as he did not follow it out any further, I cannot say what were the particular consequences he meant to infer from it. Let us for a moment take up the supposition and follow it out for ourselves. Let us suppose that all the other original as well as secondary causes, which have operated upon the human race, to bring civilized society to its present state of art, power, knowledge, refinement, and wide spread comfort and luxury, to have remained as nearly as possible the same. Let us imagine the reason of man to have been as powerful, his curiosity as active, his talent, courage, energy, enterprise, equal, nay, if you will, superior to that which he now possesses and exerts. But in place of his hand, that exquisite and wonderful piece of mechanism, so beautiful in contrivance, so perfect in its construction, so infinite in its uses, obeying the mind's impulse with an accuracy and rapidity, which the mind itself cannot comprehend or follow—in place of that hand he has the paw of a wild beast. Under such circumstances, unquestionably, some form of society, of government, and of social order might exist. The human mind might slowly observe and compare many of the truths of reason and the laws of nature. The first principles of mathematics, depending as they do, upon pure reason, might possibly have been discovered, and the science of numbers and figure and measure developed in theory by individuals, to no inconsiderable extent. In a race of men so formed, there might possibly be poets and orators, whose fancy or eloquence might have rivalled or resembled those of the great names of the world's early history. There might, and there doubtless would, have been the frequent exertion of brute valor; and there probably would have been sometimes added that application of mind to courage, which makes of the soldier a hero, a leader, a conqueror.

But here, the force of mere mind, in such a world as ours, must have stopped. Without the mechanical assistance of the hand, most of the discoveries and improvements of each generation must have died with them and left no preparatory stock of knowledge to the next, for the want of the art of writing. But this, however great it may seem in itself, is but the most inconsiderable of the privations to which man would be subject. 'Man,' said Franklin, 'is a tool making animal,' and without the hand where would be the tools of agriculture—the plough, the spade, and the wagon? where the builder's skill and the houses which now shelter happy families, in place of the cave and the forest? where the boat, the sail, the ship, which connect nations together, and make the wealth and the wisdom of each portion of our race in some degree the property of all. As we proceed in this analysis, we may thus trace back the comfort, the happiness, the safety, the splendor, nay the very affections and virtues of social and civilized life to the industry of the hand. Still all this is the fruit of the labor of the hand guided by intelligence. It is the toil of the hand directed by experience, strengthened by knowledge gained by past experiment, by the observation of nature, and by the application of reason to that experience and observation. This it is that constitutes that enlightened labor, to which society owes its elevation and its happiness. This it was that

—"roused man from his miserable sloth,
His faculties unfolded, pointed out,
Where lavish nature the directing hand
Of art demanded, showed him how to raise
His feeble force by mechanic powers,
To dig the mineral from the vaulted earth,
On what to turn the piercing rage of fire,
On what the torrent and the gathered blast,
Gave the tall ancient forest to his axe,
Taught him to chip the wood and hew the stone,
Till by degrees the finished fabric rose;
Tore from his limbs the blood polluted fur,
And wrapt him in the woolly vestment warm;
Nor stopt at barren, bare necessity,
But still advancing bolder, led him on
To pomp, to pleasure, elegance and grace,
And breathing high ambition in his soul,
Let science, wisdom, glory in his view,
And bade him be the lord of all below."

Such, in the language but without the exaggeration of poetry, are the magnificent results of intelligent industry, of the hand executing what the mind has devised or discovered; either of them without the other being powerless to any greatly useful end. The mind without the hand must be compelled to waste its force upon barren speculation, or to amuse itself with the fleeting visions of fancy. The hand without the

guiding mind, is bloody and dangerous, quick to injury, slow and awkward in any work of peace. Let them act together in intelligent union, and then the whole man and the whole frame of society will move together in cheerful activity, right onwards to their highest possible perfection and happiness. It is the boast of our own country and times and civil condition, that they are all auspicious to this union and the attainment of these ends. To cooperate to the best of his ability in securing and hastening forward this excellent and beneficent effect, and especially to make its blessings more immediately felt by those around and about him, is at once the duty of every good citizen and his most exalted privilege.

It is with such motives and views that you, fellow citizens have founded the Mechanics' Institute of the city of New York. Its primary object you have stated, in your constitution, to be 'the instruction of mechanics and others in popular and useful science, and its application to the arts and manufactures, by means of lectures, apparatus, models of machinery, a museum, and library.'

In discharging the grateful and honorable duty which you have confided to me, of opening the course of scientific lectures arranged for the present season, perhaps I cannot better employ the limits of an introductory lecture, too circumscribed for the particular elucidation of any single prominent branch of scientific inquiry, than by considering a few of the more important advantages, which may justly be expected to flow from instruction of the kind proposed by your institution.

Let me invite your attention, first, to the consideration of the probable beneficial effect of the diffusion of scientific knowledge, amongst those practically and habitually employed in the mechanic and manufacturing arts, as it is likely to operate upon the improvement and advancement of the arts and sciences themselves. This is a view of the subject which did not, perhaps, occupy the foreground in the midst of the founders of the institute; but I place it first, because it first occurred to my own thoughts, and because, too, if not the very first in importance, among the many uses of such institutions as this, it is scarcely secondary to any other.

Perhaps there is no better definition of science, than that it is knowledge acquired by the thoughts and the experience of many, and so methodically arranged as to be comprehended by any one. That which exhibits the truth, reasoned out by the mind from its own intuitive perceptions, and which relates not merely to that which is, but to that which *must* be, (such as the deductions of mathematics,) constitutes abstract science.

Physical science is the methodized and therefore simplified knowledge of the order of nature, so far as hitherto observed. This consists mainly, in the classification under general rules and names, of multitudes of observations and experiments. It arranges and generalizes the observations of all ages made by those who, with eager eyes and attentive minds, have read the great book of nature, which she opens of her own accord to all men, and the experiments that by new and bold combinations of agents, or powers that do not ordinarily appear together, have questioned nature herself and forced her to reveal the secret rules and methods of her mighty operations. It is the business of the true teacher of useful science to lay all this before his pupils clearly, briefly, and methodically, thus following out and applying that beautiful and benevolent fundamental law of the author of all being and of all wisdom, who governing all things by vast and comprehensive rules, includes millions of apparently jarring phenomena under the operation of some single cause, and has thus made a kind provision whereby the limited mind of man may grasp and turn to its own use the laws that sway the whole creation.

The theory of science, then, is the exposition of known facts, arranged in classes and arranged in words. Let then this general and preparatory acquaintance with the ascertained laws of nature, be widely spread amongst those who are constantly and habitually engaged in the various operations of the useful arts, and what will be the probable consequence? Instead of a comparatively few observers, most of whom see nature "through the spectacles of books," or at best on the limited scale of the laboratory, or the lecture room, we have at once hundreds of men well grounded in the principles of chem-

istry, mechanics and general physical science, perpetually observing, watching, comparing, applying, the working of those principles on the largest scale, and under some peculiar advantages, which the man of mere speculative science can rarely enjoy. For instance, all who have turned their attention to mechanical invention, know how often and how signally the most ingenious conception, succeeding admirably in the model, are frustrated and found worthless when applied to practice on the scale necessary for any useful purpose. However valuable the model may be as an auxiliary, nothing but actual experience can teach the operation of friction, of gravity, of the nature of materials, of the varying proportion of weight and strength in relation to an increased scale of size, and numerous other circumstances which it would require a lecture to detail. But the knowledge of all this is precisely what constitutes the difference between the accomplished speculative projector, and the successful practical machinist; and as all this is every hour before the eyes of the actual mechanic, it surely must prove a great thing for the improvement of mechanical skill and invention, to have this observation assisted and enlightened by sound theory, or, in other words, by a clear and distinct apprehension of what has already been invented or discovered.

(To be continued.)

Original A SKETCH.

On the banks of the Hudson river, about fourteen miles from Albany, is situated the village of New Baltimore. The scenery around this little village is wild and romantic. It fronts the river, and is surrounded on the other sides by hills hiding it from view until the visitor approaches within a few rods of it. A short distance south of the village, on an eminence which overlooks the stream, is a spot of ground which has long been occupied as a grave yard. This hill is thickly shaded with small pines, and is a frequent resort for the young people of the village. It commands an extensive view of the river and surrounding country, and in the summer season is as pleasant a place as fancy can paint. The following lines were suggested at this place under the circumstances they describe.

Twelve months had passed away, since on a mound
Which overlooks proud Hudson's stream, I sat me down
To muse at even tide on nature's beauties.
The hour I remember well, 'twas on a summer's eve,
Just as the sun had set. The zephyr
Which were wont to play among the boughs
Which shaded the green spot on which I then reclined,
Had ceased to murmur; while mute nature,
Hushed in silence, seemed to smile.
The stream below was smooth as any mirror;
And in it was reflected the scenery of the landscape
Round, as if nature, conscious of her beauty,
Had placed her mirror there, that in
Such playful moments, she might view
Herself thus dressed in grandeur!
In my young days, when but a child,
I've oft at even tide strayed from the playful group,
And roamed o'er fields of green, alone,
To gaze upon the stars and the bright moon;
And while thus musing, oft have sat me down
And listened to the night bird's scream,
As to some strain of music. I loved
Its notes—the harsh and wild they rung,
And echoes answered from the dark, deep wood.
But this place was one where some night
Disconsolate and lonely—for superstition of such spots
Had told strange tales—sat upon my grandfathers' tomb,
Where he had slept for twenty winters; and other
Friends were sleeping there, whose graves were
Almost new—who yet were green in earth.
Should I have wept o'er their decay—mourned
Their departure to a long and lasting rest?
Ah no—in life's grand drama well they played
Their parts, and now they sleep in peace!
I drop'd no tear upon their graves; for their
Departure heaved no sigh; but smiled
Upon their tombs!

The dusky cloud of night
Now lowered around. The landscape's beauty all
Was hid in darkness. The marble slabs which
Marked the spot where the departed slept,
Were seen like watching sentinels
To guard the ashes of the dead!
The little pines that shaded the green hill,
Were hid in night; and now the owl shrill scream
From the dark wood was heard to fill
The mind with gloomy reveries. Then in the west
The lightning gleamed; the distant thunder broke
Upon the ear; and winds which long to silence
Had been hushed, now murmured round—
Nature seemed all changed—in an hour!
I paused but for a moment on the spot, then
Left my kindred's tombs to mingle with the world.
Buffalo, Jan. 3, 1833.

HAROLD.

POWER OF THE PRESS.—The influence of literature upon good morals, is so obvious, that it seems strange that any should indulge the idea of advancing the one without encouraging the other. It is the most powerful lever that can be used for the direction of public opinion. A taste for literature is, in itself, a pure and elevated taste, and is an evidence of a high degree of refinement. Literature softens the manners while it extends the views of a people, and gives elegance of thought, and benevolence of feeling, at the same time that it communicates knowledge.

In our times, more than at any previous period, must the influence be manifest, because the number of those who read is greater, and books more abundant, better, and cheaper. And this must increase with time. Public opinion can not now be affected by a rumor, a song, or even an oration; but the press affords a source of information as abundant as the intellectual wants of man, as extensive as the thirst for knowledge, and as unfailing as the mountain stream; always flowing and always full. People may now, as heretofore, be excited by a public speech, but their knowledge is gained by reading; their thoughts are formed, and their actions directed by the potent agency of the press. —*West. Month. Magazine.*

POPULAR LITERATURE.—There must be, and always will be, a popular literature.—There will always be a vast amount of industry and intellect employed in furnishing to society amusement and employment of an intellectual character. Books, periodicals, pamphlets, newspapers, will continue to be made to the full amount, as regards mere quantity, of the demand; and this species of writing will continue to furnish employment for the leisure hours of a large majority of the people of this country. It is perfectly idle for the preacher or the critic to inveigh against light reading; it is as necessary to have light reading as to have light food. The keenest appetite, and the best digestion, will tire, if fed upon gross, strong diet, and will be gratified by an occasional change. Every mind requires relaxation; every mind will have it. The human mind can no more exist in a healthy state without amusement, than a vegetable without sunshine; the latter will lose its color if doomed to perpetual shade, and the former its elasticity, if the kindly beams of fancy, feeling, and sentiment, be withdrawn. There must be a popular literature. It cannot be smothered; it is not desirable that it should be. Intellectual are the most innocent, and the most instructive; no other form or relaxation is so laudable, and liable to so little objection. Let us keep it pure. If men will read, and they must have something light, elegant, and amusing, let them have it; but let us take care that it shall also be innocent, pure, instructive and elevating. To condemn polite literature is folly; the course of wisdom is to improve it.—*ib.*

BEAUTIFUL EXTRACT.—The master minds that gave impulse to the reformation were highly cultivated. Luther, Calvin, Knox, and others, were men of extensive learning, and brought to the great cause in which they were engaged, rich stores of acquired knowledge. They were great by nature. God gave them minds of gigantic capacity, and they filled them full of the treasures of wisdom. These men did not bring about that extraordinary revolution which changed the whole face of society, and even affected the forms of governments in christendom, by appealing to vulgar prejudices, but by the force of argument. They had nothing to conceal, nothing which needed to be glossed over, or perverted; truth, in its native sublimity, was the object of their search, and that which they taught to others. But though truth is mighty and will prevail, its cause can not be advanced by ignorance.—The men to whom we have alluded, were opposed by the ripest scholars, and the greatest geniuses of their age, and they met them upon their own field, clad in the panoply of knowledge, armed with the weapons of piety and reason, and animated by patriotism and benevolence.—*ib.*

POLITE LITERATURE.—What is called polite literature, embraces a vast proportion of all that is read in our country—it includes the whole circle of poetry, of fiction, and of imaginative composition. Most of our periodicals, and of our popular literature come within its scope. It exercises, therefore, a controlling and pervading influence; a greater influence, perhaps, than the more serious and elaborate productions in the several departments of science. There is no prospect that the quantity of this kind of writing will decrease, or the taste for it become diminished; because human nature is always the same, and that which has employed the highest powers of genius from the days of Homer to this time, will probably engage the same faculties throughout future periods. Indeed, we may reasonably expect, that the taste for this species of literature will in-

crease; for knowledge and refinement are increasing; and as the faculties of man become enlarged and polished, the mental appetite grows fastidious, and requires to be fed with the more elegant creations of genius. Mankind is growing more and more intellectual, and becoming more and more addicted to mental pursuits and amusements.—*ib.*

THE WONDERS OF MODERN ART.—You behold a majestic vessel, bounding over the billows from the other side of the globe; easily fashioned to float, with safety, over the bottomless sea; to spread out her broad wings, and catch the midnight breeze, guided by a slow drowsy sailor at the helm, with two or three companions reclining listlessly on the deck, gazing into the depths of the starry heavens. The commander of this vessel, not surpassing thousands of his brethren in intelligence and skill, knows how, by pointing his glass at the heavens, and taking an observation of the stars, and turning over the leaves of his 'Practical Navigator,' and making a few figures on his slate, to tell the spot, which his vessel has reached on the trackless sea; and he can also tell it, by means of a steel spring and a few brass wheels put together in the shape of a chronometer. The glass with which he brings the heavens down to the earth, and by which he measures the twenty-one thousand six hundredth part of their circuit, is made of a quantity of flint, sand, and alkali—coarse opaque substances, which he has melted together into a beautiful medium, which excludes the air and the rain and admits the light,—by means of which, he can count the orders of animated nature in a dew-drop, and measure the depth of the valleys in the moon. He has, running up and down his mainmast, an iron chain, fabricated at home, by a wonderful succession of mechanical contrivances, out of a rock brought from deep caverns in the earth, and which has the power of conducting, harmlessly down the sides of the vessel, into the deep. He does not creep timidly along from headland to headland, nor guide his course along a narrow sea, by the north star; but he launches bravely on the pathless and bottomless deep, and carries about with him in a box a faithful little pilot, who watches when the eye of man droops with fatigue, a small and patient steersman, whom darkness does not blind, nor the storm drive from his post, and who points from the other side of the globe, through the convex earth, to the steady pole. If he falls in with a pirate he does not wait to repel him, hand to hand; but he puts into a mighty engine a handful of dark powder, into which he has condensed an immense quantity of elastic air, and which, when it is touched by a spark of fire, will instantly expand into its original volume, and drive an artificial thunderbolt before it, against the distant enemy. When he meets another similar vessel on the sea, homeward bound from a light excursion to his own, he makes a few black marks on a piece of paper, and sends it home, a distance of ten thousand miles; and thereby speaks to his employer, to his family, and his friends, as distinctly and significantly, as if they were seated by his side. At the cost of half the labor, with which the savage procures himself the skin of a wild beast, to cover his nakedness, this child of civilized life has provided himself with the most substantial, curious, and convenient clothing textures and tissues of wool, cotton, linen and silk, the contributions of the four quarters of the globe and of every kingdom of nature. To fill a vacant hour, or dispel a gathering cloud from his spirits, he has curious instruments of music, which speak another language of new and strange significance to his heart; which make his veins thrill, and his eyes overflow with tears; without the utterance of word—and with one sweet succession of harmonious sounds, send his heart back, over the waste of waters, to the distant home, where his wife and his children sit around the fireside, trembling at the thought, that the storm, which beats upon the windows, may perhaps overtake their beloved voyager on the distant seas. And in his cabin, he has a library of volumes,—the strange production of a machine of almost magical powers,—which as he turns over their leaves, enable him to converse with the great and good of every clime and age, and which even repeat to him, in audible notes, the laws of God, and the promise of his Savior, and point out to him that happy land, which he hopes to reach, when his flag is struck, and his sails are furled, and the voyage of life is over.

FELLOWS.

To call a man a Fellow is no great compliment; but there are certain epithets attached to the word, by which it is rendered more than tolerable, and becomes acceptable, and even complimentary; yet, perhaps, after all, when we consider by whom the terms are used, and to whom they are generally applied, the honor will not seem very great. There are many fellows in this strange world of ours, and, peradventure, the most common of all is the Clever Fellow. Myriads and myriads are there of superficial, bustling, impertinent coxcombs, who are as anxious to obtain the title of clever fellows as a city alderman to attain the honor of knighthood. I do not know whether I am right or not—perhaps not; but it has always appeared to me that the term clever fellow indicated the lowest grade of intellect, mixed with a portion of effrontery, and seasoned with a spice of vulgarity. The genuine idea of a clever fellow has an intermingling of cunning blended with it, and it is especially applicable to small scriveners and rogue's lawyers, who are most intimate with the darker passages and dirtier turnings, alleys, and doublings of the law. If a man has a quick eye for a flaw, a ready knack at puzzling what is plain, of obscuring what is obvious, and that for the purpose of injustice, he is called a clever fellow. The epithet appropriately belongs to low and vulgar minds, and it is by them it is given; yet even by them it is seldom seriously bestowed on the higher orders of the mind—indeed the higher orders of mind are above the comprehension of clever fellows. A thoroughly clever fellow must not have much originality about him, for if so, he would be unintelligible to the many; he must have nothing of abstraction or deep thought, else he will appear as a mere plodder—a dull mechanical genius. Your true clever fellow had better not think at all; for there is always a set of opinions ready made for clever fellows.—He must arrive at all his knowledge intuitively. His mind must possess that sort of swagger which marks the gait of a harlequin at Sadler's wells; and his logic must be that which jumps to a conclusion, and laughs at the slow paced wisdom which would advance carefully, step by step. He must be always ready to laugh at what he cannot understand, for a contemptuous laugh is a sure sign of superiority,—or at least of a consciousness of it, which is the distinguishing feature of a clever fellow. It is a certain fact—an axiom as clear as any in Euclid—that whatever does not come within the compass of a clever fellow's understanding must be exquisitely ridiculous. And, as a clever fellow is nothing without superiority, and as superiority is manifested by a contemptuous looking down on others; it becomes a duty which a clever fellow owes to himself to preserve constantly on his features a ready made sneer, which seems to call the rest of the world fools. I do not know that it is any real sign of wisdom for a man to think it impossible for any one differing from himself to possess a grain of understanding, but this is usually the habit of clever fellows—they are the dandies of vulgar intellect—the exclusives of common place pertness. To speak phrenologically, they have not the organ of veneration, or, if it exist at all, it is developed inwardly, that is, enveloped, and all their veneration is for themselves. They are not of opinion that they possess all knowledge, but they are so perfectly satisfied with what they do possess, that they think all other knowledge very little better than ignorance. Whatever a clever fellow does not know, he thinks not worth knowing; and he will take care to let you understand that the knowledge which he possesses not, is not out of his reach, but without the compass of his desires. The fox that declared the grapes sour, was a clever fellow; and his mortification at not being able to reach them was not, I dare say, so great as his satisfaction at the ingenious thought of pronouncing them not worth reaching. A clever fellow is clever all over—mind and body too; indeed, his mind and body are one—for your true clever fellow is not a believer in mind independent of matter (which, by the way is rather strange, seeing that his own mind is no great matter;) but let that pass—he is clever in body as well as in mind. He has a pretty and pert dexterity, fitting him to be a Merry Andrew or Jack Pudding to a traveling conjurer—indeed, I do not know any situation more peculiarly fitted to show forth

the talents of a clever fellow than this; and I should think it the climax of compliment to pay to a clever fellow, to say that he is a complete Jack Pudding—just as it would be a compliment to a mathematician to say that he is a complete Sir Isaac Newton. A Jack Pudding, you will observe, must needs have great activity of body and dexterity of hand; he must have a quick eye and a ready wit, moreover he requires, for the due performance of his important functions, a most especial share of conceit and impudence—he must be ready, make a joke of any thing, of nothing—in a word he must be a clever fellow.

There is another sort of a fellow called a Good Fellow. This word "good" is a great, large, big, bouncing adjective, but marvelously elastic withal, and fitting itself to many substantives of various, and even of opposite qualities. Grammarians, who are the only people in the world that know nothing of grammar, say that the use of words is to express our ideas; whereas all the world knows that the real use of words is to conceal our ideas. In like manner, these silly grammarians say that the adjective is used to express the quality of the substantive; whereas, in truth, the substantive is used to express the quality of the adjective; for what, in the name of common sense, is the meaning of the word "good" as it stands by itself? but clap a substantive to it, and you have a solution at once;—thus, for instance, in the case of good fellow, the word "fellow" shows you the meaning of the word "good." There is a great difference between a good fellow and a clever fellow; a clever fellow is far from being a good fellow, he is rather a good for nothing fellow. A clever fellow is always bustling about, like a parched pea on a shovel; but a good fellow is as quiet as a mouse, and as easy as an old shoe. A clever fellow has all his eyes about him, but a good fellow never has his eyes above three quarters open. He takes the world as he finds it, and thinks it on the whole a pretty sort of a thing, and never meditates pulling it to pieces to make it go better, as babies do with watches. A clever fellow will be sure to contradict you, whatever you say; a good fellow will be sure to agree with you, whatever you say. A good fellow is a kind of tame bear, clumsy, though tractable; you may lead him any where, and persuade him to any thing. He will tell you good stories if you like to listen to him, and if you do not he will listen to your bad ones. He will laugh at your jokes and pity your griefs. He will eat at any table and drink at any tavern. He will chirp over his glass and praise the nastiest wine that was ever bottled. He will never be the first to break up a party, but will sit beyond midnight, kindly oblivious of his wife and children. A good fellow is quite in his glory, and at the very perfection of his goodness, when he is half drunk or half asleep. If you have wit, you may make him your butt; and if you have not, you may play off your stupidity upon him, and he will take it for wit. He must care for nobody, but be at every body's service. He bears no resentments, and is obliging to all the world, except his own family, of whose existence he seems hardly aware. His mind, like his body, seems to have acquired a habit of sitting quietly down and confining itself to a place. He is a man who looks as though he had forgotten yesterday and had no thought for to-morrow. He is a complete nose of wax, to be twisted or squeezed into any shape. He has no mental or moral characteristics whatever—he is not a good man or a bad man, but is a good fellow; he has neither wit nor wisdom, but is a good fellow; he has done nothing that any one can recollect—he has filled no heart with gratitude and no tongue with his praises, but he is a good fellow. If he fall into trouble, (which he is pretty sure to do, for he takes no pains to keep out of it) his friends pity him it is true; but they have a very queer way of pitying him—they laugh at him with tears in their eyes. They will not give him sixpence, but they will say he was a good fellow.

Now, hereby we are brought to the acquaintance of another fellow—to wit—the Poor Fellow—another, and yet not another. A worn out good fellow makes a poor fellow; and so does a done up clever fellow. A poor fellow is a kind of waste butt for superfluous pity, and the dregs of sympathy;—compassion is not kindly administered, but carelessly thrown at him. His name is mention-

ed at tables where once he sat gaily and gloriously; and there starts up at the sound of it a vision of a thread bare coat of doubtful colour, of a napless hat with a crown that flaps up and down in the wind, and with a flabby brim that will never flap up again—a vision of leaky shoes, of greasy trowsers, of lantern jaws, and long grey hair; and the guests say "poor fellow;" then they drink their wine to drown the thought of him—thus laying the ghost in a red sea. A poor fellow is like a drone in autumn—there is something passing melancholy in the slowness of its gait, and there is in its form and aspect that which tells of a by gone summer—of an evanescent brightness—a temporary flutter and gaiety; but cold winds are come, and heavy clouds hang their damp drapery in the gloomy sky, and the poor shivering drone is creeping to as warm a death as it can find. The pity with which men look upon a poor fellow is as different from the compassion with which they regard a poor man, as the praise which they bestow on a good fellow differs from the respect with which they treat a good man. There is something painful in the familiarity of pity and the pertness of a half humorous sympathy. Even the truly generous feel some repugnance in administering to a poor fellow which they do not feel in relieving a poor man. A poor fellow reminds you of gay days; and there is a thought not to be surmounted, that some moral obliquities have assisted to form the downward slope into the valley of adversity; while the poor fellow himself feels more deeply than all, the contrast of the present with the past—he knows that the past will never be present again, therefore he wishes the present to be past as soon as possible.—Poor fellow!—Drop the curtain—drop the curtain.—*London Athenæum.*

Original.

DECLINE AND FALL OF ROME.

In tracing out the causes that resulted in the fall of the Roman Empire, we discover that they were produced, not by the sword, or any of those physical means that generally prove the destruction of governments and nations; but by a moral force, by luxury, licentiousness, vice, and indolence. Had destiny decreed that Rome should have remained firm and permanent, until the arm of military power subdued her, she might have existed at the present time. Had it been her lot to have retained her dominion until she was deprived of it by foreign invasions, the nineteenth century might have found her as potent as she was when Julius Cesar marshalled her armies, and stood at the head of public affairs. But this was not to be her fate. Providence had determined that she should be her own destroyer.

In my examination of the origin of her fall, I shall commence with the assertion, that the primary cause was false confidence. She surveyed the vast extent of her authority, and, to use a bold expression, she found it bounded on the east by the rising, and on the west by the setting sun. All the nations of the earth bowed to the supremacy of her power; every people paid homage to her standard, and the whole world acknowledged her as its mistress. The Roman flag waved over the barren deserts of Africa, and over the vine clad hills of Gallia. The regions of torrid heat, and polar cold, were embraced within the boundaries of her empire. Elated by the consideration of the magnitude of her power, and resting her hopes of its retention upon the awe which her name could not fail to inspire; exulting in her glory, and flattered by her own idea of her importance, she reclined in the lap of security, hugging the delusive phantom of vain expectation, and entertaining unlimited confidence in the permanence of her empire.

Indolence was the next step approximating towards her ruin. Under the belief that her power had become firm and settled, she imagined there was no necessity for vigilance or care, maintaining her armies in a state of preparation for emergencies, or exercising continual and sleepless caution. Her soldiers—

"The Roman legions, boasting once how loud!
Of liberty and fighting bravely o'er
The Torrid and the Frigid zone, the sands
Of burning Egypt, and the frozen hills
Of snowy Albion, to make mankind
their thralls—"

left to govern themselves, and relieved from the severe and rigid discipline to which they had formerly been subjected, soon degene-

rated from their pristine hardihood and valour, indulged in all the excesses of enervating and effeminating luxury, gave themselves away to debauchery, gratification of animal appetite and vice, and soon lost the stern, inflexible, and energetic spirit for which they were once so conspicuous, and by which they had gained the name of *invincible*. Her statesmen and public officers became negligent of their duty, the interests of their country, and its wants; became unmindful of the principles of justice which they originally observed, and, what I have no hesitation in affirming, were the pillars of the government; and the chief trait in their administration was changed from integrity to venality.

The fall of Rome was accelerated by the general state of luxury and libertinism that pervaded her. The enterprising, daring, vigorous, and ardent disposition, that distinguished her from the rest of mankind, had left her. Her citizens no longer delighted in battles, or burned to tread the path to glory. Instead of martial music, they enjoyed the sounds of mirth and revelry. Instead of the tented field, they frequented scenes of debauchery. They had abandoned the worship of Mars, and made Bacchus the God of their devotion. Luxury placed the couch of ease before them; and they sank upon it; she spread the table of abundance, and they ate; she extended the cup of intoxication, and they drank. Temperance, frugality, and industry fled; and with them the very essence of her power. Weakened by her vicious and unrestrained indulgences—by the corruption of her officers, the laxity of the public ministers, and her utter destitution of moral virtue, she became an easy prey to the neighboring nations; who watched with pleasure her rapid degeneracy. The barbarians issued in hordes from their northern homes, entered her once impassable portals, unresisted; took possession of her temples, robbed them of their sacred contents, plundered her fane of their holy furniture, and rendered the city of Rome one vast scene of desolation. Thus we see that the mistress of the earth fell a victim to immorality and luxury, when the physical force of millions might have been exerted against her in vain.

The history of Rome affords many interesting and salutary lessons to the politician, to the military officer, and to the philosopher. It teaches the first, that that state which is destitute of moral virtue must fall; the second, that an army to be powerful must be maintained under a rigid discipline; and the last, the inevitable consequences of popular corruption.

JUVENIS.

Lewiston Academy.

BOUNDLESSNESS OF THE CREATION.—About the time of the invention of the telescope, another instrument was formed, which laid open a scene no less wonderful, and rewarded the inquisitive spirit of man. This was the microscope. The one led me to see a system in every star; the other leads me to see a world in every atom. The one taught me that this mighty globe, with the whole burden of its people and its countries, is but a grain of sand in the high field of immensity; the other teaches me that every grain of sand may harbor within it the tribes and the families of a busy population. The one told me of the insignificance of the world I stand upon; the other redeems it from all its insignificance; for it tells me that in the leaves of every forest, and in the flowers of every garden, and in the waters of every rivulet, there are worlds teeming with life, and numberless as are the glories of the firmament.—The one has suggested to me, that beyond and above all that is visible to man, there may be fields of creation which sweep immeasurably along, and carry the impress of the Almighty's hand to the remotest scenes of the universe; the other suggests to me, that within and beneath all that minuteness which the aided eye of man has been able to explore, there may be a region of invisibles; and that could we draw aside the mysterious curtain which shrouds it from our senses, we might see a theatre of as many wonders as astronomy has unfolded, a universe within the compass of a point so small as to elude all the powers of the microscope, but where the wonder working God finds room for the exercise of all his attributes, where he can raise another mechanism of worlds, and fill and animate them all with the evidence of his glory.

General Intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

UNFORTUNATE CASE.—About a month since, a verdict was rendered in the court of common pleas, against Christopher Hock, for a breach of promise of marriage, in favor of Catharine Raffin, who arrived in this country from Germany about the month of March last, and went to reside as a servant in the defendant's house. The damages awarded being \$350, an execution was issued for this amount with the costs; but not a vestige of property could be found to satisfy the judgment. Believing that the defendant was abundantly able to pay, and all the means which they could resort to by civil process to enforce it, having been exhausted, recourse was had to criminal process, issued by the police magistrates at the instance of the overseers of the poor, to require of him surety to save the city harmless from the support of the child of which the defendant was the putative father. Hock resisted by every means in his power the service of the warrant, and it was only after a considerable struggle on the part of the officer, and the breaking open the doors of his dwelling, that he was arrested. Upon being taken to the police office, he exhibited a spectacle of poverty, wretchedness, and mental suffering, rarely presented even in that office. He was without stockings, and so indifferently clad in other respects, that his apparent suffering from the weather, added to his long beard, uncombed hair, and dirty, besmeared face, rendered him an object of pity as well as loathsomeness. The old man, for such in reality he appeared to be, although it is said he is not over fifty years of age, declined giving the security required of him, and utterly disclaimed his ability to do so, in consequence of which he was sent to the criminal prison at Bellevue. Here some of his fellow prisoners discovered what the officers had been looking for in vain, that Hock had money with him, nicely quilted in the skirt of his greasy and tattered frock coat, from which while asleep they cut out *eighteen doubloons*, besides several dollars in silver. Information of the loss having been communicated to the keeper, search was made in vain for the money, until one of the three who had participated in the theft, stated who were his accomplices and where a part of the money had been hid. By the aid of a carpenter, one of the plank was taken up from the floor through a hole in which sixteen of the doubloons had been put, which were thus fortunately secured, but whether for the old man, the affianced plaintiff, or the support of the child, time can alone disclose. The perpetrators of the theft have been held in custody for a considerable time back upon a charge of passing counterfeit money, from which, it is said, they had, from their former good character, a prospect of escape. An indictment having been found against them for the present offence, it is now more than probable that they will be held accountable for that as well as the former.—*N. Y. Cour. & Eng.*

COMMERCE OF PROVIDENCE.—The number of foreign arrivals at this port during the year 1833 was 60, and clearances 47; coasters entered 681, and 312 clearances; coasters arrived not cleared 2289. There arrived during the same period—Cotton, 45,778 bales; 96,128 barrels; Grain, 461,123 bushels; Coal, 21,920 tons.

SCHOOL SHIP.—A memorial is in the course of circulation for the establishment of a School Ship in the port of New York, for the purpose of educating young men for the merchant's naval service. The object is a laudable and important one, and we hope will be liberally patronized. By such a resort, many an idle and vicious boy, we doubt not, may be reclaimed from the downward path, and become a useful, sober, and industrious citizen. As a measure of political economy too, it is deserving of regard—for it is well known that there is a great want of mariners in this port—and an establishment of the kind would doubtless have great influence to increase their number by turning to a useful direction a class of individuals who are now a moth and burthen upon the community.—*N. Y. Com.*

UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK.—At a recent meeting of the Council, the Rev. John Proudft was appointed Professor of Greek, and Dr. Lewis C. Beck, Professor of Chemistry. Professor Proudft has already entered upon his duties, and Professor Beck is expected to do so in the course of the present month. These gentlemen would be a valuable acquisition to any Faculty. Professor Beck is extensively known not only as a Professor, but as an author of several scientific works, which have ensured him a high reputation. His work on Chemistry is now used as a text book in the University, and in several of our Colleges.

We learn that the Institution has never been so prosperous as at present. The number of students still continues to increase; and arrangements are now made for carrying up the building with such despatch, that it may be expected to be under cover in September next.—*Id.*

STEAMBOAT ACCIDENTS.—A recent number of the New York Journal of Commerce, furnishes a list of the steamboat accidents which occurred within a period of six weeks, ending early in December. It is annexed. From this it may be seen that no less than *thirteen* have happened within that period, attended with a loss, in the aggregate, of more than *one hundred lives!*

New England,	boilers burst,	16 lives lost.
St. Martin,	burnt,	30 or 40
Caspian,	burnt,	20 or 30
Illinois,	boilers burst,	13 to 20
Thos. Yeatman,	do	7
Columbia,	sunk,	4
Paul Fry,	boiler burst,	1
Total,		91 to 181

Geo. Washington wrecked, Black Hawk burnt; Paul Clifford, Rapid, Peruvian, Chipewa and Bonnets o' Blue, sunk.

With the exception of the New England, Geo. Washington and Paul Fry, all the above boats plied on the western waters. The New England plied between New York and Hartford; the Geo. Washington and Paul Fry on the lakes.

SPIRIT GAS.—Another accident from the use of this article as a substitute for oil has recently occurred at Boston, by which a house was set on fire. Occurring, however, early in the evening, the progress of the flames was soon arrested. About sunset, says the Transcript, as one of the clerks was trimming a *Spirit Gas* Lamp, some of the turpentine mixture overran the lamp, fell on the window seat and took fire. A cotton rug or horse blanket was used to smother the flames and wipe the window seat and then thrown into one corner of the room, where the fire occurred two hours afterwards. It is asserted positively on the authority of two credible witnesses, that after using the rug it was opened and examined carefully, and was not on fire when it was thrown on the floor. If this be true, and the testimony is sufficient, we have in addition to their danger attending "spirit gas"—that of spontaneous combustion—which has probably caused more fires that have not been accounted for, than any other latent cause.

TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS PREMIUM.—The New York Temperance Society offer a premium of two hundred dollars, for the best address to the corporation of the city—showing: First. The evils growing out of the present system of granting licenses for retailing ardent spirits. Secondly. The most practicable and approved plan for speedily correcting these evils. The merits of the addresses to be decided by Samuel Stevens, William D. Crosby, H. Maxwell, Eleazer Lord, and John W. Levitt. The manuscripts may be addressed to Dr. A. W. Ives corresponding secretary, No. 3, Park Place, before the 1st of February 1834.

PITTSBURG.—There is one sound in the streets of Pittsburg, which utterly forbids a stranger mistaking them for those of any other town on the continent. It is the ceaseless din of the steam engines. Every mechanic here of any pretension has one of these tremendous journeymen at work in his establishment. They may be purchased for what would be the price of a pair of horses in New York, and it costs a mere song to keep them in fuel. Those machines must do the work of a great many thousand men at Pittsburg.

DELAWARE BREAKWATER.—According to a report made to Congress, this work can be completed during the year 1835, if the necessary sum amounting to a little over a million is appropriated. The whole length is 3,600 feet, and the deposit of stone is now 2,700 feet. The ice breaker is 1,500 feet. The deposit of stone during the last year amounted to 155,000 tons. The light house is to cost \$20,000.

WONDERFUL CURE.—Elcaser Chase, of Fall River, (Vermont,) some seven or eight years ago, in cutting stone, broke off a piece of cast steel from some of his tools that flew into one of his eyes, and caused the loss of its sight. The steel remained, which made the eye extremely susceptible of cold, and caused frequently severe inflammations, with great pain and suffering. Last winter and spring he suffered extremely, and serious fears were entertained by himself and friends that he would go off in a consumption. One alternative alone presented itself, to prevent its fatal catastrophe; and that was to have his eye cut out—the steel that remained continued to irritate to that degree, and without hope from any other means and fast declining, and continually tortured by this direful malady, he at last came to the conclusion to submit to the advice of his physician, and have this operation performed.

About this time a friend of his told him of a remedy which was, to apply to his eye a magnet and draw out the steel. One was procured of great power, and applied—the second time of application the steel came out, and relieved his eye from the irritation that had become so very severe, and he is now well, and about his usual avocations, and saved the dreadful operation of having his eye dug out.—*Fall Riv. Rec.*

MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.—Last evening, says the New York Commercial of Wednesday, at Clinton Hall, was held the 13th anniversary of this valuable institution, which was fully attended. The annual report was read by J. W. Stebbins, Esq. the president, which was full of interesting matter. Great expectations had, at the time of the library being removed to Clinton Hall, in 1831, been indulged of endowments, sufficient to place the institution on a footing inferior to no literary society in America. Although these have not been realized, the association is in a highly flourishing condition, and continues to fulfil, if not surpass the expectation of its founders. The spirit of inquiry is more active among the young men than ever. In January, 1833, there were belonging to the association 1431 members, to which have been added during the year, 382, and there now remain, after deducting 159 withdrawals, 1654. Last January the library consisted of 7614 volumes, to which have been added 1397, making a total of 9011, the additional volumes being principally donations from Messrs. G. C. Verplanck, Edward Everett, Edward Livingston, Dudley Selden, Mathew Carey, William B. Williams, and R. L. Smith.

The receipts last year were \$2979, and the expenses \$2991, including for books and periodicals \$1304, salaries \$778, gas \$391, &c. The balance in the treasury is \$40.83.

In the report of Mr Stebbins, he said—"It is a cheering reflection that so large a number, 1654, of the young men of this city are animated to such a degree, by the ambition of self improvement, as to pledge themselves the votaries of science. It augurs well for the name of this advancing emporium, whose future reputation must vary with the virtue and intelligence of its rising sons. It may be regarded as a sign, which should go far to redeem New York, from the aspersions frequently made, that here the cultivation of superior knowledge, is overshadowed by a rank and luxurious passion for the accumulation of riches—a passion which, when carried beyond the natural bounds, becomes a vice that stifles and supplants the growth of the better feelings of our nature."

But however pleasing the indication, it must not be forgotten, that we comprise but one quarter of the full complement of merchant clerks in this city. They have been computed to exceed six thousand five hundred, leaving nearly five thousand young men in mercantile pursuits, uninculcated in the circle of this society; ignorant, many of them, of its existence, and requiring only to understand the benefits, to be enjoyed under its auspices, to exchange the pleasure which too many of them pursue, for the fruits of intellectual and moral cultivation."

William Beach Lawrence, Esq., after the reading of the report had been concluded, moved that it be accepted, and he sustained his motion by remarks pertinent to the occasion, and in which he repelled the idea that literature and science were useless to merchants. They were of primary importance in carrying on their appropriate business. Merchants too were often called to fill important stations in the government. He alluded to the case of John Hancock, and to many other merchants who had not only done service but conferred honor upon their country. He adverted also to the case of Mr Roscoe, who although a certificated bankrupt, produced the celebrated life of Lorenzo the magnificent.

The man, said Mr L., is not lost in the merchant, and the members of the association would soon be called to act upon a grand theatre that knew no bounds but the Pacific.

David Graham, Jun. Esq. seconded the motion for the acceptance of the report, and dwelt with much force and eloquence upon the importance of the commercial character—the utility of knowledge and science in elevating it to the proper standard—and the importance of fixing that standard upon an eminence so high as to ensure a generous and active emulation. His remarks were received with evident approbation, and drew down frequent plaudits.

The chairman, Isaac S. Hone, Esq., concluded the meeting, by stating that it was not his intention to have spoken, but that he was constrained to do so from the elegant but undeserved compliment paid him by one of the gentlemen who had preceded him. He congratulated the association on its flourishing condition, and stated that its influence had already been made manifest in an eminent degree, in the morals and deportment of the young men of the city. Thirteen years ago, said the chairman, when this association was formed, little else than rudeness and vulgarity were found in the manners of the young men, but now, said he, not one addresses me but with a polished manner, resulting from intellectual acquirements and the determination of improvement in the moral condition of the city. Mr Hone stated, that a circumstance had recently transpired, which would cause him to abandon the profession to which he had been so long engaged and ardently attached, but whatever might be his future career, this association, and the young merchants of the city would be objects of his peculiar regard. Mr Hone's short address was received with loud and long continued plaudits.

LEGISLATURE OF NEW YORK.

IN SENATE.

Friday, Jan. 10.—Petition presented.—By Mr. Livingston, of the Greenwich bank of the city of New York, for an increase of capital.

Mr Stower called for the consideration of the following resolution submitted by him yesterday: *Resolved*, That the committee on the judiciary inquire if any further legislation be necessary to prevent the sale, by way of agency, commission, or otherwise, of foreign lottery tickets, within this state, with leave to report by bill or otherwise. The resolution was agreed to.

The committee on the whole, Mr. Gansevoort in the chair, took up the bill relative to the vacancies and disabilities in the office of vice chancellor. [Provides that in cases of vacancy or disability, certain proceedings may be continued in the name of the chancellor.] Mr Lansing explained the objects of the bill. Messrs. Dodge, Sudam, and Seward also made some remarks, when, on motion of the latter, the committee rose and reported, and the bill was ordered to be printed.

The committee, Mr Seward in the chair, passed the bill to incorporate the fire department of the city of Hudson.

After the consideration of Executive business, the Senate adjourned.

Saturday, Jan. 11.—Petitions presented and referred: by Mr M'Donald—of inhabitants of Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland, for the incorporation of a whaling co.

The resolutions passed in the Assembly yesterday, on the removal of the deposits from the U. S. Bank, were read, and ordered for consideration on Wednesday next.

Mr. Mason gave notice that he would, at some future day, introduce a bill to increase the salaries of the chancellor, judges of the supreme court, and circuit judges.

Mr Seward called up the following resolution, offered by him on Wednesday: *Resolved*, that the bank commissioners report to the Senate, or in their annual report to the Legislature, a statement as far as practicable, of the dividends which have been made by the respective banks under their supervision, and of the surplus funds accumulated by the said banks.

Mr Stower was afraid the resolution would not meet the object, and offered the following amendment: *Resolved*, if the Hon. the Assembly concur, that the bank commissioners ascertain and report to this house, the amount of each regular and extra dividend made by the banks which have been incorporated, or whose charters have been renewed since the passage of the law establishing a safety fund commencing at the period when each bank was incorporated or its charter renewed, and distinguishing the amount of each dividend and the time when the same was made, together with the amount of reserved profits remaining on hand at the time of making each of those dividends.

The amendment of Mr Gansevoort was lost 11 to 10, and the resolution of Mr Seward, as amended by Mr Stower, passed unanimously.

In committee of the whole, Mr Gansevoort in the chair, the bill relative to vacancies and disabilities of vice chancellors, was taken up and ordered to a third reading.

The senate then adjourned till Monday.

Monday, Jan. 13.—A great number of petitions were presented; among which was one by Mr Van Schaik, from the seamen's saving bank of this city, for leave to loan money on bond and mortgage. On motion of Mr Edmunds a resolution was adopted requiring the North River bank to report a true and full amount of the funds and property of said bank, the amount of capital subscribed and paid, &c. &c.

Mr Mason, pursuant to notice, brought in a bill to increase the salaries of the chancellor, judges of the supreme court, and circuit judges. [Increases the salaries of the chancellor and judges of the supreme court to \$2,500, and the circuit judges to \$2,000, and prohibits the circuit judges from receiving fees for any services whatever.] Committed to a committee of the whole and ordered to be printed.

Bills read the third time and passed: Relative to vacancies and disabilities in the office of vice chancellor.

Mr. Dodge submitted the following: *Resolved*, that the committee on the incorporation of banks and insurance companies, be instructed to inquire into the expediency of compelling by law each bank incorporated under the safety fund act, to have at all times in their vaults one fifth of their capital in specie.

Mr Dodge adverted to the former reports of the condition of these banks to show that the amount of specie in their vaults was small compared to their capitals, particularly the country banks. His object was to ascertain whether it could not be required of them to keep a larger amount, though he was aware that it would curtail their circulation, and consequently their profits.

On motion of Mr Sudam, the resolution was laid on the table.

On motion of Mr Edmunds the doors were closed. The Senate were engaged for a short time in secret session, after which the doors were opened, and the Senate adjourned.

Tuesday, Jan. 14.—Mr Van Schaick presented a petition from the National Bank for an increase of capital.

Bills introduced: the joint resolutions from the Assembly in relation to establishing in the several counties in this state, a system of universal education, &c. was read and laid on the table.

The bill from the Assembly for the payment of jurors in New York, was referred to the judiciary committee.

On motion of Mr Gansevoort, *Resolved*, that the committee on the judiciary inquire into the expediency of authorizing the appointment of a person to hold a circuit court, in case any circuit judge, from sickness, or any other cause, shall be incapable of holding court appointed by him; and that said committee report by bill or otherwise.

Mr Dodge laid on the table the following: *Resolved*, that the bank committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law, that no member of the legislature, shall directly, or indirectly, be permitted to subscribe for any share or shares of bank or insurance stock, in any company which shall be incorporated during the period for which he shall have been elected.

Mr Dodge offered the following: *Resolved*, that the canal commissioners be directed to report to the Senate, 1st, the present cost of the Chenango canal. 2d, their opinion as to the quantity, durability, and sufficiency of the water on the summit level thereof, with a complete description of the sources from whence they calculate to receive it, and the mode and manner of its application. The resolution was laid on the table.

At the request of Mr Seward, the bank resolutions, from the Assembly, which were made the special order of the day for Wednesday, were made the order of the day for Thursday.

After the consideration of executive business, the senate adjourned.

IN ASSEMBLY.

Friday, Jan. 10.—Petitions presented and referred.—By Mr Cargill, for a bank at New Berlin, Chenango county. By Mr Whipple, for a bank at Lyons, Wayne county. By Mr Degrau, to increase the capital of the Phoenix bank in the city of New York; to alter the charter of the New York sacred music society. By Mr Lewis for a bank at Olean. By Mr Myers, of citizens of the state of New York, for the American life insurance and trust company, with a capital of \$3,000,000. By Mr A. J. Parker, for a bank at Bainbridge. By Mr Patterson, for a bank at Leroy, Genesee county. By Mr Church, for the Mechanic's bank at Rochester. By Mr Bartle, for a bank at Lyons; for a bank at Clyde, Wayne county. By Mr Whipple for the same; to increase the capital of the Lockport bank. By Mr Shays, for the Oneida county bank at Utica. By Mr Hall, for a bank at Forestville, Chautauque county. By Mr Hunt, for a bank at Oxford, Chenango county; to repeal the act for abolishing imprisonment for debt. By Mr Clarke, three, to incorporate the Rochester and Buffalo rail road company. By Mr Wait, two, for the Chenango Canal bank at Greene.

Bills introduced on notice:

By Mr Myers, for the better security of steam boat passengers: referred on motion of Mr M'Keon to a select committee and double the usual number of copies ordered to be printed. [This bill provides that three steam boat inspectors shall be appointed for two years, by the Governor and Senate, for each of the cities of New York and Albany; whose duty it shall be to direct the peculiar construction of steam boats intended to navigate the Hudson, so as most effectually to guard against the bursting of boilers—to inspect all such boilers previous to their being placed on board—to examine as to the competency of the engineers now, or hereafter to be employed—to ascertain once every two months, during the season, the condition of the boilers and machinery of every boat, and examine minutely into the causes of every explosion; also that no boat shall be permitted to carry passengers on the Hudson, without having been examined and approved by two inspectors, (any one of whom may prohibit the conveyance of passengers by any boat, which he may judge to be defective in her boilers or machinery) nor unless the engineer shall have submitted to an examination, and received a certificate of qualification. Penalty for navigating the Hudson without obtaining the certificate of the two inspectors, \$500 for each offence; and for employing an engineer who has not complied with the requisitions of the act, \$50 for each day he may be so employed. Fees of Commissioners \$5 each, per diem, while on duty; to be paid by the person employing them; and \$5 for each engineer's certificate. Each boat to be reported by the captain and registered, for which he shall pay \$2.50. Tow boats are included in the act. Racing prohibited on penalty of forfeiture of boat, machinery, &c.]

Mr Hone offered a resolution which was adopted, directing the bank commissioners to report the amount of unclaimed dividends remaining in the banks, subject to their supervision; the amount of stock on which said dividends

had accrued, and the names of the holders of said, and the amount of deposits remaining unclaimed; also, requesting the officers of the several insurance companies in the state to furnish similar information.

Mr Myers presented a preamble and resolutions, directing the bank committee to enquire into the expediency of incorporating in all bank bills they might report, several sections relating to the distribution of the stock.

[The sections require the commissioners to sell the stock at public auction, in lots of not less than 10, nor more than 50 shares, the purchasers to inclose under seal to the commissioners, the amount of the first payment on each share, within three days after the sale, who shall, within five days issue to each his scrip, and publish the names of each purchaser, the number of shares struck off to each, and price paid—the expenses of the sale to be deducted from the advance, if any over the par value, and the balance of premium to be paid over to the state treasurer, to be placed to the credit of the general fund; the amount received on account of the par value, to be paid over to the directors, deducting expenses of sale, if the premium should not be sufficient; in which case, an account of sale must be filed in the comptroller's office.] With the consent of the mover, it was laid on the table, and, on his motion, ordered to be printed.

Mr M'Keon called for the consideration of the resolutions offered by him on the 8th inst. The resolutions were as follows: *Resolved*, (if the Senate concur) that the removal of the public deposits from the bank of the United States, is a measure of the administration of which we highly approve.

Resolved, (if the Senate concur) that the senators from this state be directed, and the representatives from this state be requested to oppose any attempt to restore the deposits to the bank of the United States.

Mr M'Keon moved the following in addition to the original resolutions:

Resolved, (if the Senate concur) that we approve of the communication of the President of the United States to his cabinet, on the 18th September last, and of the reasons given by the Secretary of the Treasury, relative to the removal of the deposits.

Resolved, (if the Senate concur) that the charter of the bank of the U. States ought not to be renewed.

Resolved, (if the Senate concur) that the Secretary of State be requested to forward to each senator and representative a copy of these resolutions.

The question being on the adoption of the resolutions as amended by the mover, the ayes and noes were ordered, (nearly the whole house rising in a body in favor of the call) and it was decided in the affirmative, ayes 118, noes 9.

Mr Dana called up the resolution directing the clerk to pay to each member the amount of postage on letters and documents received by them on business before the legislature; which after some conversation, was, on motion of Mr M'Keon, referred to the committee on ways and means. Adjourned.

Saturday, Jan. 11.—Petitions presented and referred:—Mr Hertell presented the memorial of a large meeting of the citizens of New York, against the repeal of the law abolishing imprisonment for debt; which was finally laid on the table; for a canal from the Black river to the Erie canal; for the Seneca Falls bank; to increase the capital of the Dry dock bank; of the Safety Fund banks for an increase of the bank commissioner's salary to 25,000; for the Grocer's bank of New York; for amendment of the charter of the Washington marine insurance company.

The speaker announced several committees. Mr Hertell, pursuant to notice, brought in a bill relating to the competency of witnesses. The bill provides that no religious test shall be required of witnesses.

Mr M'Keon gave notice of a bill making parties in civil suits witnesses.

Mr Hertell offered the following resolution, which lies one day on the table. *Resolved*, (if the Senate concur) that a joint committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency and practicability of establishing in the several counties of this state, with a view to a system of universal education, industrial, agricultural, mechanical, scientific, and literary institutes, and that the said committee report thereon at the present or succeeding session of the legislature.

Mr Case offered a resolution to extend the franking privilege to members of the state legislatures.

The House, in committee of the whole, Mr M'Keon in the chair, passed the bill allowing the N. Y. common council to pay grand and petit jurors, \$1 per day.

Monday, Jan. 13.—Numerous petitions were presented. One by Mr Myers for a reduction of the capital of the union fire insurance company, and to extend the time to complete subscriptions, and another by Mr Hasbrouck for a road from this city to Lake Erie.

The bill relative to juror's fees in the city and county of New York was read a third time and passed. This authorizes the corporation to allow

an additional compensation of one dollar per day to grand and petit jurors.

Mr Gordon introduced a bill to repeal the act abolishing imprisonment for debt, which, after some discussion, was referred to the committee on the judiciary, and ordered to be printed.

Mr Titus introduced, on motion, a bill authorizing the commissioners of school money, in the city and county of New York, to use a part of the special school tax to pay their expenses.

Mr Morris gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill relative to the removal of causes by certiorari to the supreme court of the city of New York.

The house then adjourned.

Tuesday, Jan. 14.—Petitions—for banks, at Albion, Rochester, Dunkirk, Salem, Fredonia, and Cahoes falls; for a M'Adam road from N. Berlin to Utica; to incorporate the Greenwich insurance company, in the city of New York.

The speaker announced a message from the governor, conveying the annual report of the adjutant general. Also, concurring in the act for the relief of certain persons, for canal damages; and concurring in the act for relief in the case of disabilities in the office of vice chancellor.

Mr Parker gave notice of an amendment to the act exempting clerks in chancery from military duty.

Mr M'Keon gave notice of a bill for an act authorizing parties and persons interested in suits at law, to be examined as witnesses, plaintiff and defendant, to be competent as witnesses; referred to the committee on judiciary.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr Lockwood in the chair, on the act for extending the power of the commissioners of the supreme court in Westchester; rose and reported.

On the act authorizing the commissioners of school monies in the city of New York, to use part of special school tax money to pay their expenses; Mr Strong in the chair. Passed without amendment. Adjourned.

TWENTYTHIRD CONGRESS.

IN SENATE.

Wednesday, Jan. 8.—Mr Webster, from the select committee on French spoliation, reported the bill referred to that committee, with sundry amendments, which were read.

Mr Webster then said, that as it was important that this subject should be discussed at as early a period of the session as possible, he should now, in compliance with the opinion of the committee, move to postpone the consideration of the bill till Wednesday, the 5th of February, and to make it the special order for that day. The motion was agreed to.

Thursday, Jan. 9.—Mr Poindexter, after reading the message of the president of the United States of the 6th inst., relating to the presents made to the American consul at Tangier by the emperor of Morocco, made a few explanatory observations previous to introducing the following resolution:

Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to cause to be laid before the state a schedule of the several articles received by the ministers, consuls, or other agents of the government of the United States at foreign courts, as presents from the governments at which they were respectfully accredited, and by them deposited in the department of State, specifying each article, and its estimated value, and the name of the minister, consul, or agent, to whom the present was made.

Mr Poindexter asked its consideration at this time; when, no objection having been made, it was considered and adopted.

Friday, Jan. 10.—Mr Frelinghuysen offered the following resolution, which was considered and agreed to:

Resolved, That the secretary of the treasury be directed to inform the senate of the construction which has been given, by that department, to the act passed at the last session of congress, entitled "an act to modify the act of the 14th July, 1832, and all other acts imposing duties on imports;" and also to furnish copies of such instructions as may have been given to collectors, regulating their duty under the said act.

The senate, on motion, adjourned to Monday.

Monday, Jan. 13.—The chair communicated a letter from the secretary of the treasury, in obedience to the resolution of the senate of the 10th instant.

The short debate which followed, ended in laying the letter of the secretary of the treasury on the table.

Among other morning business, Mr Clay laid upon the table the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on finance be directed to inquire into the expediency of affording temporary relief to the community from the present pecuniary embarrassment, by prolonging the payment of revenue bonds, as they fall due, the obligors paying interest and giving satisfactory security.

The senate resumed the consideration of the report of the secretary of the treasury, and the resolutions of Mr Clay, on the subject of the removal of the public deposits from the Bank of the United States, as the special order of the day; when Mr Calhoun rose and addressed the

senate for about an hour and a half in opposition to the course which had been pursued by the secretary of the treasury in the removal of the deposits.

Mr Shepley then stated that he desired to present some views on the subject, and moved that the senate do now adjourn. The senate then adjourned.

Tuesday, Jan. 14.—Mr Morris presented a preamble and resolution of the state of Ohio, respecting the Bank of the United States, the removal of the deposits, &c.

The resolution submitted yesterday by Mr Clay, was taken up for consideration. The debate was introduced by Mr Clay and continued by Mr Preston, Silsbee, and several other senators, when, on motion of Mr Poindexter, it was laid on the table.

The chair then announced the special order of the day—the deposit question—when Mr Shepley rose and addressed the senate in support of the removal, until three o'clock, when, without concluding, he yielded the floor.

Mr Benton then moved that the senate adjourn. Before the question was taken, Mr Webster laid the following resolutions on the table for consideration:

Resolved, That the secretary of the treasury lay before the senate a copy of the official order or direction for changing the place of the deposit of the public money.

Resolved, That the secretary of the treasury cause to be laid before the senate a copy of the official bond of the treasurer of the United States.

Resolved, That the secretary of the treasury cause to be laid before the senate copies of all drafts, checks, or orders issued by the treasurer of the United States, in order to transfer the public moneys from the Bank of the United States and its branches, to the several state banks selected as banks of deposit.

After transacting some minor business, the senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Wednesday, Jan. 8.—Among other business of the morning, Mr Heister presented a memorial of the Farmers' Bank of Lancaster, depicting the pecuniary distress of the country, and praying a restoration of the deposits to the Bank of the United States. Referred to the committee of ways and means.

Thursday, Jan. 9.—The following bills were reported from the standing committees, read twice, and referred to the appropriate committee:

By Mr White, of New York, a bill authorizing the purchase of live oak frames for a frigate and sloop of war, and for other purposes.

Also, a bill to authorize the president of the U. States to direct transfers of appropriations in the naval service, under certain circumstances.

The house having resumed the consideration of the motion to transfer the secretary of the treasury's report on the deposits to the committee of ways and means, Mr Binney resumed the floor, and brought to a close the speech commenced by him on Tuesday. When he concluded, Mr Cambreleng, after a few prefatory remarks, moved the previous question, which the house refused (108 to 89) to order. The subject therefore continues to be the order of the day.

Friday, Jan. 10.—The bank question, which came up as the order of the day, was, by general agreement, postponed.

Mr Selden's resolution on the five per cents next came up as the unfinished business. The resolution is in the following words:

Resolved, That the committee of ways and means be instructed to report a bill, requiring the commissioners of the sinking fund forthwith to purchase, or otherwise redeem, the five per cent. stocks of the United States, and directing the secretary of the treasury, to place under the control of said commissioners such funds not otherwise required for the purpose of the government as shall be necessary for that object, and, in case of deficiency, to sell so much of the stock of the Bank of the United States, belonging to the government, as will enable them to complete the purchase.

A motion by Mr Stewart, of Pennsylvania, to lay the resolution on the table, was put and lost. Ayes, 75; noes, 80.

Mr Selden's resolution was finally adopted. Ayes, 126; noes, 81.

Several bills, ordered to a third reading some days ago, were read a third time, passed, and sent to the senate for concurrence. The remainder of the day's sitting was spent in the consideration of private bills, and then the house adjourned to Monday.

Monday, Jan. 13.—The principal business attended to this day was the consideration of memorials.

Tuesday, Jan. 14.—Mr Adams offered the following resolution, which was agreed to.

Resolved, That the secretary of the treasury be directed to communicate to this house copies of such instructions as have been given to the collectors of the customs since the 26th December last, regulating their duty until the act passed at the last session of congress, entitled "an act to modify the act of the 14th July, 1832, and all other acts imposing duties on imports."

On motion of Mr Ward, *Resolved*, That the committee on naval affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of constructing a dry

lock at or near the city of New York, and of causing a survey to be made of the present navy yard at Brooklyn, and also of other sites in the vicinity of New York, which may be selected for such dry dock.

At one o'clock Mr Cambreleng took the floor, and addressed the house on the bank question till a quarter before 3 o'clock; when Mr Jones, of Georgia, offered the following amendment to the instructions moved by Mr McDuffie: "With instructions to inquire into the expediency of depositing the revenue hereafter collected in all the state banks in the different states, where the same is collected, in proportion to their respective capital paid in, and to prescribe the terms on which the same shall be deposited; and to report by bill or otherwise."

The naval appropriation bill was read a third time, passed, and sent to the senate for concurrence. Adjourned.

FOREIGN.

FROM MEXICO.—Intelligence has been received at New Orleans from Vera Cruz to the 12th of Dec. and from the capital to the 8th. General Santa Anna had surrendered up the ordinary power with which he had been invested, and requested permission to retire for an interval to his estate (near Vera Cruz) for the restoration of his health. Reductions were making in the army, and the country was generally tranquil. The periodical convey from the capital had arrived at Vera Cruz, with one million and a half of dollars. An adverse feeling towards Texas still prevailed in the Mexican government. It is not to be admitted as a state, and troops were to be marched thither to overawe the people. Col. Austin and the deputation had left the capital in disgust.

LATER FROM PORTUGAL.—The brig Leander has arrived at Salem from St Ubes, bringing intelligence to the 27th of November.

The relative positions of the warring brothers had not materially varied since our last accounts. Don Miguel's forces were at Alcazar de Sal, about eighteen miles from St Ubes, in the interior. The fleet and all the important seaports were still in the possession of Don Pedro. The Miguelites had made several attempts to take St Ubes, but without success. Skirmishing was frequent but not decisive. It was generally believed that hostilities would cease with the present campaign. The Miguelites have become depressed and disheartened, being driven from the strongholds on the seaboard, and obliged to take up quarters in the interior.

NATIONAL EDUCATION IN FRANCE.—By a bill passed the chamber of deputies, it has been ordained that every commune or parish is bound to provide, either by itself or conjointly with one or more neighboring parishes, some primary school of the lowest order, in which shall be taught the principles of the French language, cyphering, and an acquaintance with the authorized standards of weight and measure.

POLITICAL INFLUENCE OF THE FAIR SEX.—In a few years the finest kingdoms of western Europe will be under the government of the fair sex, and they will rule the destinies of the numerous states, as well as those who compose them. A young princess, Donna Isabella the second, aged three years, has already ascended the throne of Spain and the Indies, under the superintendence of her mamma and her aunt, Donna Charlotte. Donna Maria is established in Lisbon and Oporto, and when our own king shall, in the course of nature, cease to reign, the throne of the British Isles will be filled by the princess Victoria. In this manner not less than a hundred and fifty millions of the human race, in the four quarters of the globe, will bow to the fair sex, and the ladies may boast, like the former kings of Spain and present rulers of Britain, that the sun never sets on their dominions. It is impossible to help feeling something more than an ordinary degree of interest in the three young princesses, who seem likely, in a few years, to possess so large a share of power and influence, and on whose character so much depends. One of them, Donna Maria, has already passed through a stormy career, and a career equally stormy is, we fear, in reserve for the infant queen of Spain. Our own princess will succeed to an undisputed throne, and if her reign should be less famous for military exploits than those of her royal predecessors, the queens Elizabeth and Anne, it will, we hope, acquire more lasting and purer glory from triumphs of freedom and science, and the extension of the rights and increase of the happiness of a free, loyal, and prosperous people.—*London paper.*

FROM MADEIRA.—The brig Enterprise, captain Peach, arrived at this port last evening, in 36 days from the island of Madeira. Captain P. states that the fleet of Don Pedro was daily expected, and that there would be no resistance to his assumption of authority over the island. The present governor of Madeira continued extremely tyrannical in the use of his power, imprisoning the inhabitants on frivolous grounds and exacting large pecuniary contributions from the merchants.—*Charleston Patriot.*

LITERARY INQUIRER,
AND
Repository of Literature & General Intelligence.

BUFFALO, JANUARY 22, 1834.

SLAVERY.—Few subjects occupy a larger share of attention, at the present moment, than that of slavery. It is discussed in public meetings, at private parties, in newspapers and literary periodicals; and will, ere long, be brought under the notice of our national legislature. The evils of the system have been portrayed, its atrocities pointed out, and its demoralizing influence shown by incontrovertible facts. That its natural tendency is to dissolve every social tie, destroy every moral virtue, and degrade its unhappy subjects almost to the level of brutes, has been iterated again and again; and yet, strange to say, there are not wanting those, even in our own state, who, if they do not directly advocate its continuance, yet avow themselves its enemies only "in the abstract." But why this unmeaning distinction? Plainly because it would be preposterous any longer openly to oppose the resistless tide of public opinion. It is not now a question, at least with wise and reflecting men, whether or not slavery shall be abolished; with one united voice they say, that it can not—must not continue. Believing that slavery is not less incompatible with the principles of natural justice, than it is opposed to the plainest dictates of humanity—that it is alike debasing to the master and the slave—that, so far from being founded either in reason or sound policy, it is but the figment of a barbarous and comparatively unenlightened age, many devoted patriots and philanthropists, in different sections of the land, are making vigorous exertions to rescue their beloved country from all participation in a system so purely evil in its nature—so tremendously disastrous in its consequences. With a view to excite a more general attention to the injustice and wickedness of slavery, and so to produce a more determined and persevering attempt to procure its abolition, antislavery societies have been formed, public discussions have been held, lectures have been delivered, and appropriate tracts have been circulated. Light has gone forth on this subject, and it can not fail to accomplish its destined work. It will not cease to operate until it has chased the darkness from every spot within the gloom of slavery.

Who that has thought at all on this question, but has been struck with the fearful contrast which slavery presents, both to the general spirit of American law and to the principles and maxims of genuine republicanism? Upon all the other national institutions of this great and growing republic, we see reason, and freedom, and benevolence plainly and unequivocally inscribed. But slavery, as it has been forcibly remarked, "is an exception to the entire system of our national policy; and is such an exception as must, ere long, strike every mind with unutterable surprise and dismay." It is a "system which converts man into a mere commodity of merchandise, which deprives him of all his natural rights, which leaves him the victim of debasing crimes, and takes from him the great stimulus of life—viz. hope of more auspicious and happier times." Should we not, then, while we triumph in our own liberty, strive to impart its blessings to others? Is it not our duty to urge our plea upon the legislature of the country till it prevail? Congress can not abolish slavery, even in the district of Columbia, without the aid of the people; and should not that aid be rendered in the authorized and accustomed way? "The right of approaching congress, in the form of petition, is," as it has been well observed, "a most sacred one, which ought never to be exercised without a legitimate call, and which ought never to be relinquished in a good cause, till the voice of truth, and wisdom, and justice is heard. In petitioning congress for the abolition of slavery in the district of Columbia, let us regard as far as possible the interests of the slaveholders; but let no sophistry, from whatever quarter it may proceed, divert us from our great purpose, till Africa's long oppressed and degraded race shall see the sun of liberty arising on all the lands of their captivity, and till the deep—deep curse of slavery shall be removed from every part of our own much loved country."

We have been led to make these remarks and

allusions, in consequence of receiving the first number of Vol. II. of the Emancipator, and Journal of Public Morals; and from the expectation, that the citizens of Buffalo will shortly have the opportunity of affixing their names to a memorial to congress, similar to the one which has been already so extensively circulated and numerously signed in New York and some other places, praying for the immediate and total abolition of slavery in the district of Columbia—in that district which includes the capitol of our country, and where the starspangled banner, emblem of our nation's freedom, so proudly waves. We understand it is in contemplation, if deemed practicable, also to organize in this city an antislavery society, based on the same principles as those which govern the New York, Rochester, and New England societies. "It is by united, energetic and persevering efforts that we can hope to succeed; but in vain will be the attempt to stay the progress of truth and liberty. Humanity and reason combine with the spirit of the times on which we have fallen, to demand the utter extinction of slavery; and the cry will every day become louder and louder, till, trumpet tongued, it shall thrill the bosom of the most selfish and indifferent, and lead to such mighty conflicts of public opinion as shall terminate in the final overthrow of a system, which, in all the years of its existence, has been crying aloud to Heaven for vengeance on its guilty advocates."

THE NORTH AMERICAN MAGAZINE.—The January number of this valuable work has been received, and we have extracted from it a memoir, a song and a sonnet, all written, we believe, by its accomplished editor and principal contributor. As this excellent and truly national magazine proceeds, we are unfeignedly glad to perceive, that the expectations which its announcement excited are fully realized. There is so much of management and guile in the present day—there are so many new works which spring into existence but to die—that few place implicit reliance on the promises which are made, or the assurances of support which are held out by literary adventurers. In the present case, however, every succeeding number strengthens our confidence in the high character of the undertaking, and assures us that the North American Magazine, so ably conducted by Sumner Lincoln Fairfield, will be one of the most valuable contributions of our day, to the general stock of sound popular literature.

VERPLANK'S DISCOURSE.—This paper, which we copy from the Knickerbocker, and which was read as an introductory lecture to the course of scientific lectures before the mechanics' institute of New York, will be deeply interesting to a large class of our readers, though not, perhaps, so generally acceptable as articles of a lighter character. There is much in it to gratify an inquiring mind, to which no knowledge is unwelcome, nor any province of human research unattractive. The subjects of which the lecturer treats are highly important, and his style and illustrations peculiarly happy. That the present is preeminently an age of free inquiry, profound research, and increasing knowledge, will be obvious to all who reflect on the variety and excellence of our literary institutions, the number of our eminent scholars, and the ability displayed in many of our literary and scientific periodicals. Of the native authors of whom America can boast, perhaps few have done more to advance her literary reputation, or to promote the establishment of a national literature, than the amiable and talented individual, a portion of whose interesting lecture we this week present to our readers. Mr Verplank possesses, it is well known, a bold, discriminating, determined, fearless mind. It may, indeed, be emphatically said of him, that he thinks for himself. He is no copyist—no retailer of other men's thoughts. Although this lecture has been already so extensively circulated, yet its intrinsic merits and adaptation for usefulness are so great, that we should be gratified to see it published separately, and in so cheap a form as to be rendered accessible to our mechanics generally.

LOWER CANADA.—On the 7th inst. the parliament of Lower Canada commenced its fourth session. It was opened by an address from the throne, delivered by Lord Aylmer, which is said

to possess more than ordinary interest. The governor informs the parliament, that a considerable portion of the session will, probably, "be occupied in the consideration of the communications on highly important subjects, which it will be his duty to make to them, in pursuance of the instructions he has received from his majesty's government."

MARRIAGES.

Last evening, by the Rev. Mr Shelton, Mr Augustus Q. Stebbins, of the firm of G. H. Goodrich & Co., to Miss Hannah Balleau, all of this city.
In this city, on Monday last, by his honor the Mayor, Dr Daniel Bliss, to Miss Charlotte Bates.
By the same, at the same time and place, Mr Leonard W. Brown, to Miss Harriet Bates.
On the 6th instant, by the Rev. Alfred Handy, Mr R. Neal, of this city, to Miss Lucinda McArthur, of Sardinia.
On the 9th instant, by the same, Mr G. W. Vincent, of Albion, to Miss Rebecca Leonard, of Sardinia.
On the 13th instant, by the same, Mr Jacob Towles, to Mrs Nancy Field, both of Sardinia.

DEATH.

On the 8th instant, in Cincinnati, whither she had gone for the benefit of her health, Miss Mary Ann Staats, in her 16th year, daughter of the late B. I. Staats, of this city.

JOY AND SORROW.—As the most luxuriant plants thrive best with an equal mixture of sunshine and shade, showery and dry weather, and in a soil composed of sand as well as richer materials, mingled in due proportions together, so the human mind is a plant which thrives best with a just proportion of prosperity and adversity, joy and sorrow.

PATRICK HENRY.—A writer in the Richmond Enquirer says that the remains of this distinguished man, to whose eloquence the country owed so much in the days of the revolution, lie buried on his native farm, without a stick or stone to mark the spot.

MONUMENT.—The Danvers people are getting up a subscription to erect a monument to the memory of the citizens of that town who fell in the battle of Lexington.

NAVIGATION.—A patent has been taken out by Capt. Deming of this port, says the N. Y. Cour. & Enq., for an improved plan of building ships and other vessels, whereby a saving of one third the expense is effected, and greater strength obtained than those built upon the present plan, with the same quantity of timber. A small vessel built upon this principle is now in Mr Titus' yard. She is without the usual timbers, knees, ceiling, or caulking; her timbers being all placed horizontally and secured by perpendicular bolts and screws, present an even uniform surface in the interior, so that a leak can be stopped from the inside, and leaving no receptacle for rats or the accumulation of foul air, by which her fastenings might be corroded. The plan is very ingenious and worthy the attention of builders and others connected with shipping.

THE BANK ROBBERY.—Among the notes stolen from the Philadelphia Bank, on Sunday week, were one hundred and fifty of one hundred dollars each, amounting to fifteen thousand dollars. A short time since the mayor received an anonymous letter from Louisville, Ky., informing him that on the first fair Tuesday after its receipt, an attempt would be made by skillful and experienced rogues to rob one of the banks of that city. The fact was made known to all the cashiers, who considered the information a hoax!

PUBLIC MEETINGS.—A public meeting was held in Boston, on Saturday week, to consider the derangement of the currency, and the general state of commercial distress, which is stated to have been one of the most numerous and respectable ever held in that city.

A public meeting has been held in the borough of Norfolk, to take into consideration the removal of the deposits. The meeting is represented as the most numerous and respectable ever before convened in Norfolk for any public purpose. After various resolutions had been adopted, disapproving of the removal of the deposits, a vote of thanks was passed to the Hon. William J. Duane.

A public meeting was held in Petersburg, Va., on the 4th inst., to take into consideration the late measure in reference to the government deposits. Resolutions expressive of disapprobation were adopted by the meeting.

MAIL ROBBERY.—A young man by the name of John Bruce, an apprentice to the postmaster of Milton, N. C. who occasionally assisted in sorting the mails, has absconded, having received the cash for a check for five hundred dollars, which he had abstracted from a letter. There was found in his trunk a large number of letters which he had stolen from the office.

CAUSE AND EFFECT.—Immediately before the abolition of lotteries in England, a scheme was formed in London, containing several magnificent prizes of 20,30, and even £100,000 each. The display of this scheme induced many extensive adventurers; and the night following the drawing was signalized by fifty suicides.—*Philad. Sentinel.*

Poetry.

Original.

THE DYING REQUEST.

(The following lines were suggested by hearing the dying request of a young lady of this town, whose memory will long be cherished in the hearts of many friends.)

"Mother, may I be buried in the garden?
Of lay me not among the multitude,
The title of earth's thousands—when I am dead
Lay me not where footstep of the careless stranger
Wanders; where his eye gazes in search
Of tombs and monuments and names of those
Whom earth calls great and honorable:
Where the cypress waves its gloomy branches
O'er the graves of those who never sought
Or loved its shade when living:
Where by my side shall sleep the stranger,
And none of those I loved be near me,—
Mother, O mother! lay me not there,
Let me be buried in the garden.
There in a lone and shady corner,
O'er whose green turf yearly the bending peach tree
Sheds its bright flowers, laden with perfume,—
(Where too, a lovely cherub sleeps, nipt in the bud
By God's kind hand) mother, dear mother!
May I be buried there? 'Tis sweet to think—
(Nay, mother, weep not.) 'Tis sweet to think
That I shall sleep so near thee: that shall press
No pile of marble on my bosom, to tell
The heartless passer which of the many mounds
He sees around him, covers my ashes. Not
Affection's sympathy shall seek the spot,
And drop a tear upon it. Often you'll think of me,
And oft at eve you'll seek my peach tree bower,
And weep in silence on my grave."—
—And there they laid her—
The young, the loved, the beautiful:
She of the laughing eye and bounding step—
The life, the spring of joy and happiness.
But she sleeps sweetly, and she died in peace.
Buffalo, Jan.

EARLY DAYS.

Oh! give me back my early days,
The fresh springs and the bright morn,
That made the course of childhood's ways
A journey of delight.
Oh! give me back the violet blue,
The woodbine and the rose
That o'er my early wanderings threw
The fragrance of repose.
And give me back the glittering stream,
The fountain, and the dew,
That neither day nor night dream,
Can ever more renew.
I would give all that tears have bought
Of wisdom, wealth, or love,
For one sweet hour of early thought
This sordid world above.
One happy flight, away, away,
On wings of timeless power,
One golden morn, one glorious day,
In childhood's rosy bower.
One sail upon that summer sea,
Where passing storms are all
Light winds that blow more merrily,
And dewy showers that fall.
But ah! that summer sea no more
Shall bear me gently on;
My bark lies on the weary shore,
My fluttering sails are gone.
'Tis not that hope her radiant bow
No longer bends on high,
But light has faded from her brow,
And splendor from her sky.
'Tis not that pleasure may be lost,
Fresh gladness to the breast,
But I am worn with wandering
To find a home of rest.

SONG—BY S. L. FAIRFIELD.

As blend the hues of earth and heaven,
By fountains hymning love,
Thy voice and smile, at twilight even,
Haunt every whispering grove;
The clouds, thy throne—the stars, thine eyes,
The diamond vault, thy brow—
Why should I quench these ecstasies
Without a prayer and vow?
Why should the burning glance of mind
On memory's ruin gleam,
When warblers thrill the morning wind—
Love voices, evening's beam?
Should doubt and gloom pervade the heart
Where love with fame reposes?
And love, the rainbow seraph, part
From pleasure's realm of roses?
When peril round the banner rallies
Of heroes wrapt in war,
Should sighs and tears in woodland valleys
Dim each triumphant star?
No—Glory is the lord of love,
His triumphs, his pinnons;
The palmerow, borne by beauty's dove,
Waves o'er the world's dominions!

SONNET.

How like divinity this soft, still eve!
The sun of autumn, like a god, is setting,
And, oh, the beauty tempts me to forgetting
Those giant ills that long have made me grieve.
Bright angels seem reposing on yon verge
Of billowy light, and from their airy wings,
Fanning infinity, a perfume springs.
Like cherub breathings. The low lulling surge,
Breaking far o'er the shelly beach—the deep
Soft music of the groves—the whirl and rush
Of dropping leaves and the trickling gush
Of rivulets that from the brown cliffs leap—
This dying loveliness melts all my woes,
And hallows sorrows death alone can close!

THE LESSON OF A LIFE.

I cared not e'er for studied lore,
Or wisdom of the past,
And worthless learning never o'er
My mind its network cast.
But in those sweet and sunny eyes
I read unuttered thought,
Which science could not analyze,
And books have never taught.
I read, that eloquence of soul
Love can alone impart,
Which merges in one burning whole
Each feeling of the heart;
And felt, that I could never yearn
For study's stilted strife,
Since loving thee was but to learn
The lesson of my life.

DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

After a thorough investigation it has been satisfactorily ascertained that the Dedham fire was the work of an incendiary, and the selectmen have offered a reward of five hundred dollars for the detection of the perpetrator.

A man named Cook residing near the town of Arkansas, murdered his wife on the 5th ult. by stabbing her in several places. He was drunk.

The U. S. army, as now constituted, comprises 6,413 men, viz: dragoons, 303; artillery, 1,785; infantry, 3,235; recruits, including dragoons, entered from 1st January to 30th September, 1853, is 2,606.

The number of revolutionary pensioners now on the rolls, under act prior to 1852, is 11,004; invalid pensioners, 3,763.

The number of militia in the United States, according to the latest returns, is 1,318,113.

By advices, dated New Haven, Ct. Jan. 6, we are informed that a distressing disease of anomalous character, and very fatal, prevails in the north part of Killingworth. Eleven persons have died of it within a few weeks, and none of those attacked have recovered.

Mr A. J. Alexander, a very respectable citizen of Woodford, Kentucky, was recently killed by becoming entangled in the machinery of his sawmill.

The grocery store of Mr Griffin and cooper's shop of Wm Hares, were burnt at Albany on Monday.

The tavern house of Mrs Bruce, five miles west of Cumberland, Md was destroyed by fire on Thursday night last. Loss estimated at \$3,500.

Mrs Brookman, of Bucksport, Me, a few nights since, having been much exhausted in attendance on a sick child, rose from bed in a state of derangement, and wandered into the river, where she was drowned.

Thomas Officer, Zanesville, Ohio, was recently robbed at Philadelphia of \$1500, part of the proceeds of a lot of wool. He had a short time previous deposited \$4000, the proceeds of a drove of cattle.

The whole number of foreign arrivals at Portland, during the year ending Dec. 31, 1853, was 167; foreign clearances, 244.

A new steamboat of about 70 horse power, called the "Tampico," is now nearly ready for sea, at New York, and is to be employed in towing vessels over the bar at the port from which she derives her name.

The life of Ma-ka-tai-me-she-kia-kink, or Black Hawk, is advertised in the Louisville papers, as for sale in that city.

The Philadelphia Bank, between the hours of closing on Saturday afternoon and the opening of the doors on Monday morning, was robbed of probably about sixty-four thousand dollars, in bank notes. A reward of three thousand dollars has been offered by the bank for the detection of the villains and the recovery of the money, or in proportion for any part thereof. It consisted principally of 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5 dollar notes of said bank.

The hon. Caleb Cushing has prepared for publication a "review of the late revolution in France."

A gentleman of Georgia, engaged in the trade on the Savannah river, is about to introduce an iron steamboat, for the purpose of testing its applicability to shoal water navigation. He designs the boat to be 100 feet in length, 22 feet in breadth, 7 feet hold, and of the burthen of 150 tons. Her draught of water, it is supposed, will not exceed two feet.

Thomas Sanders, who has sundry aliases appended to his name, and for whose arrest unceasing efforts have been made for a considerable time back by the New York police officers, has, it is stated, been captured in Baltimore. As soon as the governor's requisition can be obtained, he will be sent for and remanded to New York for trial.

A woman named Terry, 102 years old last August, is residing in the full enjoyment of her health and faculties, in Windsor, Berkshire county, Massachusetts.

The frigate Potomac, Com. Downes, may be expected, we learn, to arrive at Boston, from her cruise in the Pacific ocean in about a month.

The Philadelphia chamber of commerce have determined, it is said, to memorialize congress for the restoration of the deposits to the Bank of the United States.

It is rumored that intelligence has been received from Mr Livingston in France, who has been refused certain documents in relation to the condemnation of American vessels; and unfavorable impressions are entertained of the result of his mission.

A petition has gone up to the legislature, signed by almost all the principal grocers, for a bank with a capital of a million, which they intend to manage themselves.

A meeting has been called in Wilmington, Del., to take measures for petitioning congress for an appropriation to render Christiana Creek more navigable.

A panther measuring seven feet one inch in length, was lately killed at Lehigh Gap, Pennsylvania.

A bill to establish a public jail and penitentiary in Alabama, has been rejected by the house of representatives of that state—yeas 34, noes 38.

The committee (of the house of representatives) on internal improvements, have unanimously reported a bill authorizing an additional subscription by the U. States, to the amount of \$1,000,000, to the stock of the Chesapeake and Delaware canal company.

During the year 1854, there will be three eclipses, two of the moon, and one of the sun; the latter on Sunday, Nov. 30, which in some parts of the United States will be total.

An extensive and valuable mine of antimony has lately been discovered in Litchfield, Connecticut.

The Nantucket Inquirer says, there is a flourishing fig tree in the garden of Thomas Macy, esq., of that town; the ripened fruit of which is pronounced fully equal to that growing in Charleston.

A bill has passed the legislature of Georgia appropriating \$10,000 for the medical institute of that state.

In Philadelphia an infant child of a poor woman, lying in a cradle at night, was almost devoured by rats. The amputation of one of its arms was necessary with the hope of saving its life.

An infant child of Mrs Mary Cobler of Cumberland, Md, was burnt to death a few days since during the temporary absence of its mother. The distressing event took place in the presence of the father, who was too drunk to afford any assistance.

Dr Thomas F. Sargent, a physician of elevated standing, and a highly esteemed minister of the Methodist church in Cincinnati, ascended in the pulpit on the 20th ult., after he had read the text to the congregation, and being taken to the house of a friend where medical aid was immediately procured, but in vain, he died in less than an hour.

John Miller who was to have been executed in Ohio, on the 27th ult., for being accessory to the murder of his wife, has made his escape.

Professor Tucker of the Virginia University, is preparing for publication "the life and opinions of Thomas Jefferson." It will comprise two octavo volumes.

Among the 32 millions of inhabitants in France, there are 20,189 deaf and dumb persons—that is to say, one in 1537 individuals. In Russia they are one to 1548—in the United States to 1537. It appears, on an average, that one out of 24 acquires instruction.

FOREIGN SUMMARY.

A London paper says, "Sugar is now becoming an universal ingredient in many of our soups in ordinary use, being found to add greatly to their flavor and wholesomeness."

The president of Mexico has issued a decree acknowledging the emperor Maximilian, as one of the benefactors of the country, and giving his family permission to return to Mexico.

A shark was recently taken by some fishermen in the river Thames, which on being opened, was found to contain a silver watch, metal chain, cornelian seal, and several pieces of gold lace. The watch was afterwards identified by a person in London, who had sold it to a gentleman intending it as a present to his son, on the eve of his sailing. The young man was shortly after lost overboard by a lurch of the vessel in a squall, and those testimonials afforded to his afflicted friends too sad a comment upon his subsequent fate.

A Bengal paper states that a party of antiquarians, now engaged in making researches in the remote parts of Bangor district, have discovered an ancient temple of a curious and obsolete style of architecture, and bearing Sanscrit inscriptions which refer to a period antecedent to the Mohammedan conquest.

Letters from Vera Cruz state that besides the distresses of a cruel warfare, the settlements along the coast are suffering greatly from the ravages of the cholera morbus. In the village of San Cristobal de Pinotepa, which contained 400 inhabitants, it is said that not more than five persons survive.

A steam coach, it is probable, has commenced running between Brighton and Worthing, in England. It is said to be a level road, well adapted for that purpose.

Advertisements.

BAILEY'S CHEMICAL COMPOUND Fluid Extract of Sarsaparilla.—The best and safest preparation of Sarsaparilla ever discovered for the cure of Rheumatism, Liver Complaints, White Swellings, &c., removing all diseases arising from excess of mercury, exposures, and imprudences in life, general debility, &c. One bottle of the fluid extract is equal to a gallon of the syrup or decoction as generally made. Full directions accompany each bottle. Price 75 cents, sold only at the Chemical Laboratory, 307 Main street, and J. D. Sheppard's, No. 1 Krenlin.

BUFFALO BOOK REPOSITORY, No. 214 Main street.—Oliver G. Steele is now receiving and offers for sale, at the above well known stand, the largest and best assortment of school books that has ever been offered in this section of the country, which he will sell for cash, lower than they can be obtained at any other bookstore in the city. His stock of Classical Books are of the best and most approved editions that are to be obtained in the United States, being such as are used at the highest colleges and academies in New England and New York. His stock of Miscellaneous Books is very large, comprising the best editions of the standard works on history, biography, theology, medicine, and law, with a general assortment of the best novels and romances. His stock of family Bibles is extensive beyond any thing ever before offered in this city, with pocket Bibles and Testaments in abundance, of all sizes and prices.

School Books being the leading branch of his business, he will always be supplied with every thing wanted in schools and academies, which will be sold at wholesale or retail, on such terms as will make it for the interest of every purchaser to buy of him. Every person, therefore, who wishes to turn cash into books to the best advantage must be sure to call at Steele's Bookstore, where they can be furnished on better terms than they can be obtained at any other store in the city.

MORE NEW BOOKS at the Buffalo Bookstore, No. 214 Main street: Memoirs of the Court of King Charles the 1st, in 2 vols. by Lucy Aikin, Philadelphia; Memoirs of Mrs Ann H. Judson, late missionary to Burmah, by Jas. D. Knowles, pastor of 2d Baptist church, in Boston; Broad Grins, and Poetical Vagaries, by Geo. Colman, the younger; Five Nights of St Albans, a romance, in 2 vols. by the author of "First and Last"; Sketches and Eccentricities of Col. Crockett, new edition, in 2 vols. New York; Canterbury Tales, (first series) in 2 vols. by Sophia and Harriet Lee, Philadelphia; Chalmers, on the moral and intellectual constitution of man.

A. W. WILGUS.

NOTICE—The copartnership of Ebenezer Johnson and Philander Hodge, is this day dissolved by mutual consent, except as relates to subsisting contracts entered into by them.

The undersigned have formed a connexion in the Brokerage and Exchange business, under the name and firm of Johnson, Hodge, & Co., to commence this day, and to be carried on at the office heretofore kept at No. 134, Main street, by E. Johnson & Co.

They will receive for safe keeping and in deposit, all money entrusted with them, and allow an interest at and after the rate of 4 per ct. per annum, subject to be drawn out at the pleasure of the depositor, and an interest at 6 per ct. on all deposits for three months or any longer period.

The business of the late copartnership will be closed by one of the members of the present firm, at their office. Those indebted will make speedy payments, as promptness will be expected.

EBENEZER JOHNSON,
PHILANDER HODGE,
M. F. JOHNSON.

Dated, January 1, 1854.

NEW PUBLICATIONS just received at the Buffalo Bookstore, No. 214 Main street: Library of standard literature, vol. 1, containing the works of Edmund Burke, 3 vols.; the works of Maria Edgeworth, vol. 2; Family Library, vol. 64, containing the history of Nubia and Abyssinia, by the Rev. Michael Russell; Alice Paulet, a sequel to Sydenham; Village Belles, Novel, 2 vols. &c. &c.

A general and extensive assortment of classical and school books, will be kept constantly at wholesale and retail on terms accommodating.

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THE NORTH AMERICAN MAGAZINE; Samuel L. Fairfield, editor.—This magazine is devoted particularly to American literature, but will also contain brief reviews of foreign works and extracts of merit. Tales, sketches of scenery and manners, biographical and critical notices, poetry, an ana, or table talk, the fine arts, and record of occurrences, with reviews of all new works, constitute a portion of the entertainment which is presented in this periodical. All litigated questions, either of politics, religion, or the learned professions, are carefully avoided; and all merely personal rivalry or animosity excluded from the pages of this magazine.

The magazine is published in Philadelphia during the first week of every month. Each number contains sixty four royal octavo pages, well printed on superior paper, and stitched in covers.

The price is five dollars per annum, payable in advance.

BOOK AND FANCY JOB PRINTING neatly and expeditiously executed, by *Ferrisder & Bacon*, at the office of the Literary Inquirer, 177 Main st. Buffalo. The support of their friends and the public is respectfully solicited.

A FEW complete sets of the First Volume of the *Literary Inquirer*, may be obtained, price two dollars each, at the Bookstore of A. W. Wilgus, 204 Main st. or at the office of publication.

BOOKS AND STATIONERY.—At the Buffalo Bookstore, 204 Main st. now being received a large and full supply of Books, Stationery and fancy articles, for the fall and winter supply.

CHRISTIAN LIBRARY; new volume.—Key & Biddle have commenced the second volume of that valuable and popular work, the Christian Library, comprising a series of standard religious literature, with parochial lectures on the law and the gospel. By Stephen H. Tyng, D. D., Rector of St. Paul's church, Philadelphia.

The design of the work is to publish: 1. The most valuable religious and literary works which appear from the English press. In selecting from the former, sectarianism will be studiously avoided; from the latter, such only will be chosen as Christians may with propriety circulate. 2. Translations of valuable works from the Continental press, and occasionally original productions of American writers. 3. Standard works which may be out of print, and selections from such as are accessible to but few. 4. Brief reviews of such books as do not fall within the plan of this work, so that the reader may be enabled to become speedily acquainted with most of the publications of the day, and to form, in some measure, an estimate of their value. Orders received by J. C. MEEKS, Eagle Buildings, Buffalo.

TO Sunday School Teachers and Parents.—As many persons have occasion to select Sunday School Libraries, or make purchases of books for children in their own or other families, we would call their attention to the excellent, cheap, and very popular works of the American Sunday School Union. They can furnish a library for a school which will contain 235 volumes, amounting to 38,395 pages, bound in fancy colored leather backs and corners, with marble covers. These volumes contain 1500 steel, copperplate, and wood engravings and maps, illustrating the various subjects of which the books treat. The price of the complete set is \$41.

Besides this library, the Union have published 103 smaller books in paper covers, containing 2056 pages, with a large number of wood cuts. A complete set of these costs \$1.46. If bound, they would make about ten or twelve volumes of uniform size.

In the above are not included several volumes, which, on account of size, &c. are not placed in the regular series; such as the Bible Dictionary, Geography, Psalms, Hymn Books, Biographical Dictionary, Union Questions, &c.

Nearly the whole of the books have been printed from stereotype plates, on good papers; many of them were written expressly for the Union, and all have been examined and approved by the committee of publication, composed of an equal number of the Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Episcopal churches. For the sum of \$12.40, the above 38 works can be procured by any Sunday School, and Sunday School Society, which will send a copy of its constitution, a list of officers, and an annual report to the American Sunday School Union, and thus become an auxiliary. They can be procured on the same terms by an individual who is a member of the Society, purchasing for his own use or for gratuitous distribution. The terms for membership are for life \$30, or \$3 annually, in which case they also receive gratuitously a copy of the Sunday School Union.

In view of these facts, we may inquire how many thousands of parents might place in their dwellings such a library, embracing matter adapted to all ages, from the youngest child that can read, to the parents and domestics of the household! How many thousand little companies of youth might join and purchase a complete library for their amusement and instruction! How many thousand sets should be required by Sunday schools, by common schools, by public schools, by apprentices' libraries, by men of property, for gratuitous distribution, by ministers and pious visitors of the poor and the rich, for the comfort and benefit of the families and individuals they go amongst!

Orders, with particular directions as to the mode of conveying the books, will meet with prompt attention, if addressed to **FREDERICK W. POSTER**, Corresponding Secretary, American Sunday School Union, No. 146 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

PROSPECTUS of the third volume of the Knickerbocker Magazine, edited by Timothy Flint.—Permanent arrangements having been made with Mr Flint, a gentleman whose literary reputation is well known in every part of the United States, the publishers of the Knickerbocker now present him to their friends and patrons as the editor of their magazine, the columns of which will be filled with the results of his pen, as well as regular contributions from other distinguished American writers.

Each number will contain eighty full size octavo pages in bourgeois and brevier, which will admit of nearly double the amount of letter press heretofore given, and printed with an entirely new and beautiful type, cast expressly for the Knickerbocker, upon a medium paper of a high finish and fine quality; in short, the greatest attention will be paid to its typography and mechanical appearance, while several engravings, in a new and novel style, are in the engraver's hands, and will from time be given. Terms of subscription, \$5 a year, or \$3 for six months.

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